



40 YEARS OF POP HITS

16 PAGE SPECIAL

PATTON'S HIDEAWAY

The retreat from Hong Kong

PAGE 16

ADVENTURES OFFER

HALF-PRICE ADVENTURE SPORTS

PAGE 37

TOMORROW

JOHN WOODCOCK'S TOP 20 CRICKETERS OF ALL TIME

MAGAZINE

Five Tories censured by Downey

Sleaze report condemns Hamilton

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

NEIL HAMILTON and four other former Conservative MPs were censured yesterday in a damning report into parliamentary sleaze that would almost certainly have prompted their expulsion or stringent penalties had they still been in the Commons.

There was "compelling" evidence that Mr Hamilton, the former Totton MP, who was defeated by the broadcaster Martin Bell at the election, had received direct cash payments from Mohammed Al Fayed, Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, concluded in his long-awaited findings on the cash-for-questions scandal.

Mr Hamilton and Tim Smith, the former Northern Ireland minister, received and concealed payments in a way that fell below the standards expected of MPs. Sir Gordon found Mr Hamilton was accused of making statements that were "in varying degrees untruthful".

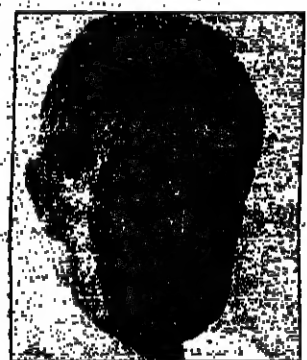
Sir Andrew Bowden, the former MP for Brighton Kemptown, failed to declare his interests in dealing with ministers and officials, in one case positively misled, and failed to register a £5,000 campaign donation that he probably knew came from Mr Al Fayed, the report said.

Sir Michael Grylls, former MP for Surrey North West, "deliberately misled" a Commons select committee over the number of commission payments he had received, and persistently failed to declare his interests in dealings with ministers and officials, it found.

Michael Brown, former MP for Brigg and Cleethorpes, "persistently and deliberately" failed to declare his interests in dealing with ministers and officials, the report concluded. Five other former-Tory MPs were cleared: They are Lady Olga Maitland, Norman Lamont, Nirj Deva, Gerald Malone, who were defeated at the election, and Sir Peter Horden, who stood down. Mr Smith stood down before the election after losing the support of his Beaconsfield constituency party, and Sir Michael retired. But Mr Hamilton, Sir Andrew and Mr Brown were all defeated, Mr Hamilton after a celebrated contest with Mr Bell that dominated the early stages of the campaign and denied any hopes John Major had of staging a lightning comeback against Labour's massive lead.



Hamilton (above) took direct cash payments, says Downey (below)



Mr Major was accused of deliberately staging a long campaign to avoid Sir Gordon's report being published before the election, a charge he denied.

But it was apparent yesterday that Sir Gordon's verdict, particularly against Mr Hamilton, was so strong that the report would have had a disastrous impact in the election run-up.

The criticisms levelled by Sir Gordon of both Mr Hamilton and Mr Smith were so serious that they would almost

certain have led to recommendations from the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee that they be expelled from the Commons, senior politicians on both sides agreed last night.

The findings were described as "serious" by William Hague. The new Tory leader is constrained until the MPs have been given an opportunity over the next two weeks to make their representations to the committee, and the committee itself has reported. But senior Conservatives are certain that Mr Hague hopes that if the findings are upheld those most severely criticised will sever their connections with the Tory party.

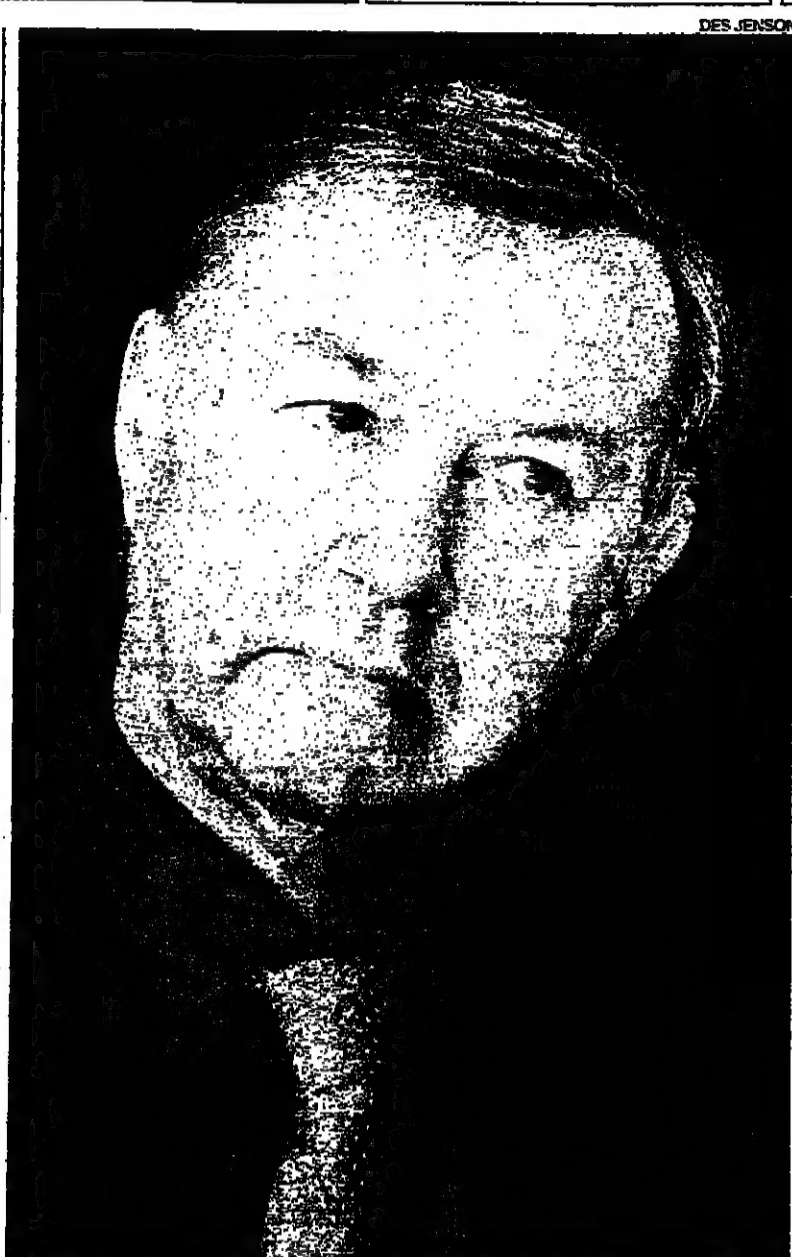
Mr Hague said: "The individuals concerned will wish to consider how they respond to Sir Gordon's serious findings. The Conservative Party wishes to see such matters fairly and rigorously dealt with."

Mr Hamilton was still fiercely protesting his innocence last night after Sir Gordon concluded that he had received direct payments of at least £25,000. He claimed a "miscarriage of justice".

Until yesterday Mr Hamilton and his supporters had claimed there was no evidence that he regularly took £50 notes stuffed in envelopes from the Egyptian-born businessman. He was clearly harmed by Mr Smith's admission that he had accepted between £18,000 and £25,000 from Mr Al Fayed.

"In both the timing and the method of payment Mr Smith's case provides strong support for Mr Al Fayed's allegations against Mr Hamilton. Further, I have not received any convincing explanation as to why Mr Al Fayed should make truthful allegations of cash payments to Mr Smith — but similar untruthful allegations in relation to Mr Hamilton," Sir Gordon found. Mr Hamilton Continued on page 2, col 4

Hamilton payments, page 10
Peter Riddell, page 11
Leading article, page 21



Sir Terence Conran: the award to Lady Conran, his former wife, was "unbelievable just because she cooked a few meals", he said yesterday

Conran v Conran — the £10m divorce

By ADRIAN LEE

SIR TERENCE CONRAN spoke of his dismay yesterday after a judge ordered him to provide his third wife with a divorce package worth more than £10 million.

Lady Conran will keep homes in London and Dorset and receive a lump sum of £6.2 million, which includes £900,000 to buy a new property in the south of France. The award, by Mr Justice Wilson, is believed to be the largest ever in a contested divorce.

Sir Terence, the style guru who became Britain's leading restaurateur, said: "I feel very upset that something that was perfectly amicable has escalated into this. She left me. That does not come out in the judgment. I was extremely upset after a long period of marriage. She took off on the 30th anniversary of our wedding."

He said he now doubted he would be able to sit down in a civilised way with his former wife and he ruled out any joint projects after the publication of the new edition of her cookery book. "I have never viewed her as an avaricious woman, but that now seems to have occurred," he said.

The Family Division of the High Court was told that the

couple agreed on how their property should be divided but the size of the cash settlement was in dispute.

The judge praised Lady Conran, now a cookery writer, for giving up a career and making an outstanding contribution to both her family and the Conran business. He described Sir Terence, 68, as having a healthy ego and said he was dismissive of his wife's contribution to the family and business.

Sir Terence said: "The figure is unbelievable just because she cooked a few meals now and again and wrote a few books. I taught her how to cook. I felt the judge was trying to make a name for himself. I think it [the judgment] reads like a Mills and Boon novel. I find it offensive a judge should write in that sort of language."

Sir Terence, who has a fortune of £80 million, and the 52-year-old judge attended the same school, Bryanston, in Dorset, which has the motto

Et Nova et Vetera (Ancient and Modern). He said his wife already had an enormous amount of her own money and that he had made a perfectly reasonable offer, of more than £2.5 million, before the case went to court. "She asked for £50,000 a year, which I was perfectly happy with. It was only when it got into the hands of bright and manipulative lawyers that the amount was raised dramatically."

Sir Terence, who is now living with Victoria Davis, an interior designer, said he doubted he would marry again. "I am very happy to be living with Vicky Davis. I have other things in my life but I think my wife became quite obsessed with this thing."

The divorce had not clouded his memories of their 33 year marriage. "Only this has soured it," he said.

Lady Conran was said by friends to be delighted with the award.

Divorce settlement, page 3



"It's the 10 per cent towards his divorce that I'm quibbling about"

Australia 224 for 7

Australia reached 224 for seven on the first day of the third Test at Old Trafford. Steve Waugh scored 102 net out; Dean Headley took three wickets on his debut. Page 48

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| TV & RADIO | 46-47 |
| WEATHER | 24 |
| CROSSWORDS | 24-48 |
| LETTERS | 23 |
| OBITUARIES | 23 |
| MATTHEW PARRIS | 20 |
| ARTS | 33-36 |
| CHESS & BRIDGE | 42 |
| COURT & SOCIAL | 22 |
| SPORT | 40-46, 48 |
| EDUCATION | 39 |
| LAW REPORT | 37 |

Budget sends shares to new high

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT AND MICHAEL CLARK

THE stock market reached a record high yesterday as dealers ignored the threat of further interest rate rises and gave Labour's Budget a vote of confidence.

The FTSE 100 recovered from an early fall to close up 80.3 points at 4831.7, with even water and electricity shares shrugging off windfall tax worries. The bounce was the biggest yet after a Budget, beating 1993's record 66.3 point rise.

But the pound also surged to a six-year high against the mark as speculation contin-

ued that the Bank of England is set to raise interest rates next week.

City analysts said that investors had returned to the stock market in a positive mood because the Budget had hurt less than expected and because the Chancellor's decision not to target consumers with higher taxes should ensure that the high street spending boom continues.

Martin Lupton, head of market-making at brokers Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, said: "Investors are relieved that much of the bad news in the Budget is out of the way."

Brokers reported strong interest from foreign investors betting on the strong pound

and the prospect of an imminent rise in interest rates. They were shopping for shares in British companies having strong earnings and dividend growth. Particularly in favour were the supermarket chains, water and electricity utilities and the banks. But the big manufacturers were given a wide berth because of the likely impact of a strong pound on profits.

The FTSE has risen 227.1 points (4.9 per cent), in the past three days. The pound rose another two pence against the mark, climbing through its old ERM central parity rate of DM2.95 to finish at DM2.965. Sterling also rose more than a cent against the

dollar as it headed towards a 1997 high of \$1.69.

Foreign exchange dealers ignored Gordon Brown's claim yesterday that he was unhappy with the pound's strength and wanted to help exporters. Roger Bootle, chief economist at HSBC, said the Chancellor has missed a "golden opportunity" to increase consumer taxes and take the pressure off further interest rate rises. Economists predict that the Bank of England will now raise rates sharply over the rest of the year, sending the pound above DM3.

Leading article, page 21
Stock market, page 28

Workshy will lose benefits

Unemployed young people who turn down a place on the Government's new welfare to work scheme will now lose their full benefit for up to a month, under sanctions unveiled by the Education and Employment Secretary yesterday. Page 2

Milk row splits childbirth group

Rebel mothers have staged a mass resignation from the National Childbirth Trust in protest at a decision to accept sponsorship money from a supermarket chain which sells its own brand of baby milk. Page 9

Empty Wimbledon seats as British dream dies

By JOHN GOODBODY AND STEPHEN BARRELL

TIM HENMAN and Greg Rusedski were swept out of the Wimbledon championships yesterday as thousands failed to occupy pre-paid seats for the country's most momentous day for men's tennis since 1961.

The dream of an all-British semi-final evaporated as both players lost in quick succession on the new No 1 Court. Cedric Pioline, of France, beat Rusedski 6-4, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, then Henman lost to Michael Stich, from

Germany, in straight sets. Henman, who beat Richard Krajick, of Holland, the defending champion, the previous day, called his defeat "probably my worst experience on a tennis court so far. To be in a quarter-final at Wimbledon and to lose as easily as I did is very disappointing."

He added later: "Twenty-four hours ago I could play some of the best tennis in my career and now I've played some of the worst." But he vowed: "I definitely believe I have the capabilities to win Wimbledon."

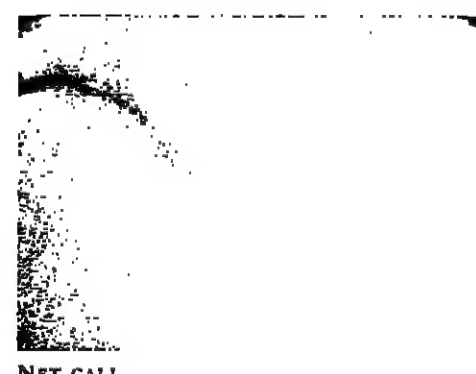
At the start of his 1.10pm match the

11,400-capacity court was two-thirds full. When Rusedski had begun his match at 11am, there were 3,000 people. However, each refused to blame low turn-out for their performance. Rusedski said: "The people who came were tremendous and supportive... I'm just disappointed I couldn't give them something to cheer about." The missing fans did surprise Pioline, who said: "I would have thought it was a big match."

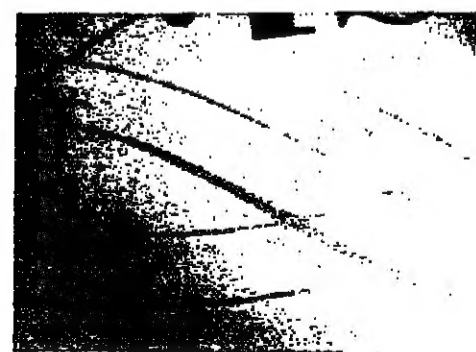
Frustrated spectators milling around outside last night called for the All England Club's ticketing

system to be changed to admit more "genuine" fans such as those who attended "People's Sunday". Only 500 seats — quickly snapped up — were sold at the gates yesterday on a first-come, first-served basis.

Match reports, page 48



NET CALL



BAR CALL

| | |
|--|------------------|
| WIMBLEDON TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP | 23 June-6 July |
| POLLO, VALLE CAQUOT GOLF CTE, CONTREUX PARK | 28 June-30 July |
| HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA | 2-6 July |
| SIR CORNELL TEST MATCH v AUSTRALIA, OLD TRAFFORD | 3-7 July |
| THE ROYAL FOUNTAIN OF THE HOUSE | 3 July |
| HAMPTON COURT PALACE INTERNATIONAL FLOWER SHOW | 9-13 July |
| BRITISH GRAND PRIX, SILVERSTONE | 13 July |
| GLADIUS GLADIATOR | 24 July-2 August |
| COWES WEEK | 2-9 August |
| BURNING INTERNATIONAL THEATRE DAY EVENT | 4-7 September |

Veve Clicquot

CHAMPAGNE OF THE SEASON

Clarke's bouncers no match for Lilley's straight bat

KENNETH CLARKE looked in on the Tories yesterday afternoon — and showed them what they had missed. Bouncing to his feet with a wave of notes he never bothered to consult, he waded into yesterday's Budget with such total confidence that, as he spoke, you could see the Tory benches looking up in new-found hope that their own official line might actually be right after all.

"You could have had me," shone through every line. "We could have had him," rose in almost-visible *thinks* bubbles from some regretful heads on the Conservative benches.

He never stoops to conquer. He may lack rhetorical flourish, but conveys a philosophical integrity rare at Westminster. Listening, you learn something. Criticising the previous afternoon's Budget, Lilley took MPs through three substantial arguments which, if you concentrated, seemed hard to fault.

He never oversteated. He avoided cheap shots. He conceded strengths in his opponents' argument. By the end of his speech you could believe that Tory concern about pension funds was more than a political try-on.

What so distinguishes Mr Lilley from almost all his colleagues is that there appears to be no trace of the charlatan in his make-up. Perhaps "charlatan" is too harsh. It misses the affectionate tone this sketch means to convey. Nobody who knows the Commons would expect a spokesman or minister to tell

the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Front benches take each other with a pinch of salt, and evasion and exaggeration are part of the currency of debate.

So when I say that almost every other heavyweight on both the Labour and the Tory front bench is an acknowledged charlatan, the term carries no moral disapproval. Robin Cook's magnificent simulated scorn in debate, the wink behind Michael Howard's posturing, Tony Blair's public quick evangelism and private flick-knife, William Hague's Oxford Union swagger... Westminster would be the poorer without any of this, and

nobody who knows is really fooled. It may be that, lacking it, Mr Lilley will never quite hit the political stride his intellect deserves.

Time and again the rhythm of his speech yesterday was spoiled by its thoughtfulness. He would pause or stammer, reconsider or rephrase where he felt a statement needed qualification.

But you cannot help admiring a man who, after all these years at Westminster, and after a long spell in a senior Cabinet post, and with every



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Workshy young face huge cut in benefits

Staying at home is no longer an option for jobless, reports Jill Sherman

YOUNG unemployed people who turn down a place on the Government's Welfare-to-Work scheme will lose their full benefit for up to a month under sanctions unveiled by David Blunkett yesterday.

The Education and Employment Secretary disclosed that the Government had decided to go ahead with what amounts to a "workfare" scheme, with harsher penalties than suggested by Labour before the general election.

People aged 18 to 24 who refuse one of four options under the New Deal unveiled by Gordon Brown during his Budget will now have their full benefit of £38.95 stopped for two weeks if they refuse a place without "just cause".

They will then go back on benefit until they are offered an alternative option. If they refuse this they will have their benefit stopped for a month. That penalty will be repeated each subsequent time they refuse a job or training offer.

The four options offered to young people unemployed for six months will be: a job with a private firm where employers will receive a £60-a-week

rebate for six months; work with a 50,000-strong environmental taskforce; a six-month placement in the voluntary sector or full-time education or training.

If a person turns down one of the options the case will be referred to an Employment Service adjudicator to decide if there is "just cause" for the refusal. If there is not, benefit will stop immediately.

Before the general election Mr Brown said that workshy

young people would only lose 40 per cent of benefit, but even this was strongly opposed by some members of the then Shadow Cabinet.

Mr Brown, however, is determined to have an effective stick and carrot approach. On Wednesday he made clear that there will be no fifth option — staying at home on full benefit.

Mr Blunkett said yesterday that people could claim hardship payments if they were ill

and came off the scheme temporarily. In such cases 40 per cent of benefit would be docked. If they had dependents they would only lose their personal allowance, but payments to cover wives or children would continue.

Ministers are also aiming to impose penalties against employers who may take on a young unemployed person, to get £60 a week under the programme, and then sack existing workers.

Employers will have to sign a declaration when they hire someone under the Welfare-to-Work programme, which will be closely monitored by the Employment Service. Andrew Smith, Education and Employment Minister, called the penalties "tough but fair". The programme balanced rights and responsibilities.

Those taken on by private firms will be paid a wage, while those taken on by a voluntary or environmental group will receive a grant of up to £400 (usually about £16 a week over six months) plus an allowance equivalent to their benefit.

Tories complain of Finance Bill 'rush'

THE Government was accused by the Tories last night of trying to "railroad" its Budget measures through the Commons.

Ann Taylor, Leader of the Commons, announced that the second reading of the Finance Bill would be next Thursday, just three days after the last day of the Budget debate. The Govern-

ment hopes to get all the Bill's stages through by the summer recess.

But the Tories claimed that this allowed no time for consultation with financial and business experts. Shadow ministers accused Labour of trying to rush through measures in three weeks which normally took eight to ten.



David Blunkett unveiled a scheme with tougher penalties than originally planned by Labour

NHS gets its biggest building scheme

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE Budget announcement of £1.3 billion building programme is the biggest since the foundation of the National Health Service. Fourteen hospitals have been given the go-ahead to carry out building work under the Private Finance Initiative (PFI).

Developments will be paid for out of private funds and leased back to the NHS. The decision was attacked by union chiefs. Bob Abberley, head of health for Unison, the country's biggest union, said: "PFI is an expensive experiment doomed to failure."

Britain desperately needs new hospitals run by the public, not the private sector. PFI is simply a scheme for 'build now, pay later'. This is hospitals on hire purchase."

PFI, brought in five years ago by the Tory Government, was originally criticised by Labour as creeping privatisation. But the new Government has embraced the approach, bringing in guidelines to make sure schemes meet their targets.

Alan Milburn, Minister of State for Health, said the overwhelming majority of hospitals would be funded in this way in future. "We have been genuinely shocked by the dilapidated state of our hospitals and building work is long overdue," he said.

"We want to see new hospitals being built, but with a limited amount of public-sector money, it is PFI or bust."

Twelve hospital trusts were given permission yesterday today to carry out building work: North Durham, South Buckinghamshire, Calderdale, Carlisle, Hereford, Wellhouse in

north London, Worcester, Bishop Auckland, South Manchester, South Tees, Swindon and Bromley. Work will also be carried at Norwich and Dartford, whose schemes have already been given the go-ahead. Building is expected to start within the next 18 months.

Twenty-nine schemes will be shelved. Mr Milburn said: "For those schemes not selected for this wave, there will be inevitable disappointment. But it is not the end of the road for them."

"They will now be eligible for consideration as part of a prioritisation exercise which will recommend those which should go forward either as part of the next tranche of PFI schemes which we plan to announce in spring next year, or from the public sector capital that is available."

The solicitors Beachcroft Stanleys, advisers for five of the new schemes, welcomed the Government announcement. Barry Francis, head of the projects department, said: "This is tremendous news for the NHS, our clients and the professional teams involved."

"With the Government firmly behind the public-private partnership process and the introduction of the NHS Private Finance Bill, all parties involved can now focus on meeting the Government's target within 18 months, if not sooner for some schemes."

Mr Dobson said that the decision to pay with private capital would lessen the burden on the Treasury. He said: "Each of the proposals represents good value for money and will reduce the bill to the taxpayer."

Pension schemes count the cost of Brown's raid

BY ANNE ASHWORTH

GORDON BROWN'S most lucrative tax-raising measure was the abolition of the dividend tax credit. The £20 billion BT pension scheme, which has 370,000 members, has already said the move will cost it £90 million a year. But the 19 million other individ-

uals also putting money aside for their retirement also suffer. Q: Why will the abolition of the dividend tax credit reduce my pension?

A: The Chancellor's decision to end the 20 per cent dividend tax credit will deprive pension funds of some £3.6 billion of income every year. To make good the loss, we will each

need to contribute an extra £190 a year to our pensions, according to Chantrey Vella-cott, the accountants. Mike Wadsworth of Watson Wyatt, the actuarial firm, calculates that the abolition of the dividend tax credit will reduce the

value of the average pension fund by 13 per cent over a 20-year period. Q: Will all those saving in pensions suffer?

A: Anyone now saving for their retirement will be affected. Worst hit will be the seven million people with personal pensions who are self-employed or in jobs without pensions. They must either increase their contributions, or risk lower final payouts.

Liberty International, a life insurance company, calculates that 30-year-olds now paying £100 a month into personal pensions must now increase their payments by

£20. Members of final salary pension schemes, the traditional type of company pension fund, will enjoy a measure of protection. New rules will oblige companies to pay extra cash into funds if they cannot meet liabilities.

Q: I am about to retire. Surely I am not affected? A: You could also be a victim of Mr Brown's pension fund raid. Those with personal pensions and members of occupational pension schemes must use their pension fund to buy an annuity which provides their income in retirement. To replace the lost dividend tax credit income, pension funds will buy more bonds and gilts. This will cause gilt prices to rise, lead-

ing to a decline in their yields. Annuity rates are governed by gilt yields. Low gilt yields mean poor annuity deals. Some insurance companies in the annuity business are already dropping their rates.

Q: Does all this mean I should find another way to save for my retirement? A: Pensions remain a tax-efficient way of saving, despite the disappearance of the dividend tax credit. The Chancellor left pension tax relief on individuals' contributions untouched. Employees can contribute up to 15 per cent of their income tax-free to a pension scheme. Those with personal pension can pay in from 17.5 per cent to 40 per cent of their earnings depending on age.

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Hamilton challenges censure in sleaze report

Continued from page 1
was also found to have "deliberately misled" his then boss, Michael Heseltine, about his relationship with the political lobbyist, Ian Greer. But Mr Hamilton said he found the report perplexed.

"He [Sir Gordon] found me, extraordinarily, guilty of taking money from Mr Fayed but he cannot say when the money was paid, how much was paid, why it was paid and where the money went," Mr Hamilton told the BBC. The only evidence, he claimed, was the

word of Mr Al Fayed's employees.

Mr Hamilton said: "He's come down against me but I still vigorously deny that I received any money for doing anything on behalf of House of Fraser. The flimsy evidence which I have just described is the basis on which I appear to have been convicted. I contest anything in Sir Gordon's report which condemns me for any act of impropriety or dishonesty — I will be making a full response."

Sir Gordon's strictures against Mr Smith are also devastating. He had admitted receiving payments but lost track of the total amount received. He was criticised not just because he had not declared the payments in the Commons register but also because he chose not to do so because that was the preference of his Harrods paymaster.

Mr Smith, whose future as an accountant looks uncertain, said last night: "I am very sorry that my conduct, as Sir Gordon Downey has

described it, fell well below the standards expected of MPs. I can only say in my defence that it seemed less obvious at the time than it does with the benefit of hindsight what was the right course of action to take."

Mr Al Fayed issued a statement saying the MPs should have declared the payments he made to them to pursue his interests in parliament.

Hamilton payments, page 10
Peter Riddell, page 11
Leading article, page 21

Al Fayed: paid MPs to ask questions

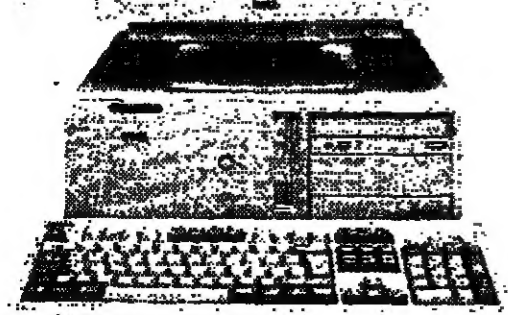


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Perfect wife to contribute to success

Husband's fortune eased judge's task

By ROBIN YOUNG
AND ADRIAN LEE

SIR TERENCE CONRAN did not give enough credit for his family and business successes to his wife of 33 years, Mr Justice Wilson, the divorce judge, said in his 26-page judgment.

The Conrans had little when they married but her contribution to the relationship was outstanding, even though he might not recognise that, he said.

"It can be difficult for a man with a healthy ego who has achieved a virtuous success to look down and discern a contribution other than his own," he remarked of Sir Terence, who was knighted in 1983.

Caroline Herbert and Terence Conran met in 1961. He was 29 and still married to his second wife, Shirley. She was 22 and working full-time as home editor for *House & Garden*. Needing a home in London, she went to stay as a lodger with the cash-strapped Conrans, who were then living in Primrose Hill.

A year later Shirley had left to continue her own career as a journalist and bestselling novelist commanding million-pound advances.

Sir Terence, whose head was buzzing with ideas for his small company designing and manufacturing office furniture, had found a new partner in Caroline. "She was beautiful, creative and instinctively stylish. The husband whose business ideas were a dominant part of his life and who liked to ventilate them just as much around the kitchen table as his office, could hardly have chosen a wife better able to contribute to their germination," the judge said.

Sir Terence had already founded and sold his Soup Kitchen restaurants, conceived as eating places serving decent food to students.

He then became intent on a career as a designer. When Sir Terence and Caroline married in March 1963 his wedding present to her was a 25 per cent stake in the design company, Conran and Co. This judge remarked: "As he said, he had little else at that time."

The year after their marriage Conran launched Habitat, his bright, smart shop selling furniture and stylish, though often inexpensive, household accessories. With £200 provided by her father, his wife subscribed for a one-eighth share in the new company, Habitat Designs Ltd.

Almost immediately after Habitat opened in Fulham Road, and hard upon the birth of her first son, she started work as buyer of kitchenware for the new shop, a position

| LADY CAROLINE CONRAN'S DIVORCE SETTLEMENT | |
|---|---------------|
| | £ million |
| Belgravia house | 1.1 |
| New home in France | 0.9 |
| Lump sum | 5.3 |
| Dorset home | 0.8 |
| Jewellery, cars etc | 0.4 |
| Share of liquid capital | 2.0 |
| TOTAL | £10.5m |

she held until 1967. She had natural flair in identifying kitchen equipment and fabrics which became a key part of Habitat's stock.

Mr Justice Wilson found: "She was drawn to the creative side of her husband's businesses, particularly in the area of food, kitchen equipment and design. In these areas she was almost as full of ideas as her husband. The husband's friends were his colleagues in business. He brought them home. The wife cooked: a superb supper; or he did so himself. Fine wine was drunk. At these times there were lengthy, energetic discussions about current projects and wife was a full participant."

In 1968, when Caroline Conran was appointed food correspondent of *The Sunday Times*, Habitat merged with a public company to form Ryman Conran Ltd, a merger that lasted only 18 months. When their shares in that company were sold in 1971 the couple made more than £1 million.

Back in Sir Terence's ownership, Habitat flourished. During the 1970s Lady Conran was largely occupied bringing up her three children and two stepsons, but she was also established as one of the most influential food journalists in Britain.

Lady Conran, the judge said, had the parental role cast "with unusual weight" on her shoulders, "because her husband was so engrossed in the businesses."

"Notwithstanding the husband's vehement denial," the judge concluded, her role as a "cooking writer" represented an important contribution by the wife to the public perception that linked him with fine food. Her renewed links with journalism enabled the wife to introduce to the husband other food journalists and indeed journalists in the field of design who, captivated by his charm and energy and by the quality of his products, wrote glowingly of him and them."

In 1975 the couple bought a house in Berkshire where the stable block was converted into a design studio and workshop. The house is now worth £1.7 million. The judge

found that Lady Conran's contention that the Berkshire home was "a sort of conference centre" was only slightly exaggerated. "There was a boardroom above the kitchen and... directors' meetings as well as other meetings were regularly held there... In the evenings the husband would relax with his friends and colleagues, and with the wife; and would, as in the early days, discuss business around the kitchen table over a fine meal."

The judge also noted Lady Conran's other "partly unacknowledged" contributions, on trips abroad, in restaurant menus, in restaurant decoration, and in the design of artefacts for manufacture by her husband's woodworking enterprise.

"When everything in this section is added together," the judge concluded, "the wife's energy was almost as prodigious as that of the husband; and her contribution to the family in every sense of the word was outstanding."

In 1981 Habitat was floated on the Stock Exchange and in 1982 merged with Mothercare. In 1986 there was a further merger with British Home Stores to form Storehouse.

In 1983 the Conrans were able to buy a 200-acre property in Provence. Lady Conran paid the deposit of £60,000 on the £300,000 purchase price. Sir Terence reckoned to have spent £650,000 on renovations and improvement. The property is now valued at £2.2 million.

In 1983, Lady Conran fell ill with cancer. Mr Justice Wilson noted: "She underwent a series of major operations and fought the illness with courage and ultimate success. Predictably she emerged from it with different enthusiasms. She became a counsellor, and later obtained a degree in psychology at the Open University; and she studied painting."

In 1986, she sold shares to buy a house in Dorset as a bolthole. The judge noted: "Not surprisingly the husband was taken aback that she bought it without reference to him." Lady Conran's choice is now reckoned to be worth £800,000.

In 1987 Sir Terence opened his first modern restaurant, Bibendum, in the Michelin Building on Fulham Road, on which he had bought a lease in 1985 to house his Conran Shop and his acquisitive publishing concern Conran Octopus, but in 1990 he suffered a reverse after disagreements with Michael Julien, the newly appointed chief executive of Storehouse. Sir Terence was forced to retire from the company, and had to sell his shares for only a third of what



The Conrans in the kitchen, where the lengthy and energetic discussions on business projects would flow over fine wine and food

they had been worth. That still brought him close to £20 million, while Lady Conran's remaining shares fetched her about £1 million. Habitat was bought by the Swedish furniture flatpackers, Ikea.

Sir Terence retained the Conran Shop, and his own creative energy which he devoted through a private company, Conran Holdings Ltd, to opening new restaurants and shops. In October 1991, on his 60th birthday, he opened Le Pont de la Tour in Southwark, followed by Blueprint Cafe, La Cantina, and the Butler's Wharf Chophouse. Conran Shops opened in Paris and Tokyo. In 1993 he reopened the historic Quaglin's off Piccadilly. There followed the 600-seater £6 million Mexico complex in Soho and the lavish conversion of the old Bluebird garage in King's Road, Chelsea.

Meanwhile the marriage had finally broken down after frequent and obvious infidelities. Lady Conran left their home in Berkshire in March 1993. Sir Terence vacated the house in Eaton Square, Belgravia, which the couple had bought in 1981, so that she could have it as her London

base. The current estimate of the 69-year lease remaining on that house is £1.1 million.

Lady Conran was granted an uncontested decree nisi in June last year.

Lady Conran's personal wealth before yesterday's settlement was reckoned to be £5.7 million. Sir Terence was estimated to have assets of £80 million but claimed that they had more than doubled since the couple's separation. His annual income is £400,000, and the judge noted: "In many respects the size of the husband's fortune eases my task."

Lady Conran claimed a lump sum of £8.7 million, which would have given her a

total of £13 million. Sir Terence offered £2.5 million.

By agreement Lady Conran is to have sole ownership of the house in Eaton Square, while Sir Terence will take sole ownership of the houses in Berkshire and Provence. The judge allowed £900,000 for Lady Conran's purchase of a new home in France, and accepted in part a "dramatic increase" in her suggested annual budget, agreeing to a total of £250,000 a year, where she had asked for £319,000 and Sir Terence had suggested £185,000. The judge calculated the capital figure required to enable Lady Conran to spend £230,000 a year as £3.2 million.

THE CONRAN WIVES

THE thrice-married Sir Terence has a current girlfriend, but no plans to tie the knot again.

In 1952 he waited for his flatmate Brenda Davison's boyfriend to go abroad before proposing marriage. They split up the same year, when the boyfriend returned.

In 1955 he married Shirley, a waitress at a Chelsea coffee shop, but they were divorced seven years later. She is now a bestselling author who lives in Monaco. They have two sons, Sebastian and Jasper.

Sir Terence met Caroline, his third wife, when she became a lodger at his house in Primrose Hill, northwest London. They were married in 1963 and they have two sons, Tom and Ned, and a daughter, Sophie.

He now lives with Victoria Davis, 40, an interior designer from Cheshire, who moved into his Berkshire mansion after her marriage to a property developer failed.

THE JUDGE

THE man who made the multimillion-pound award to Lady Conran is known as a champion of legal rights for women. Mr Justice Wilson was the youngest judge in the Family Division when appointed five years ago, aged 47. He is the only judge to have two racehorses, Nick the Brief and Nick the Book, named in his honour.

Besides a love of racing and a flamboyant streak, he has earned a reputation for a commonsense approach to legal matters. He is a believer in better deals for unmarried women who find themselves, after the break-up of long relationships, without satisfactory legal rights.

"The law as it stands at the moment gives such women virtually nothing. I don't think that's right," said the judge, who has been married for 23 years and has a son and a daughter. During 26 years at the family Bar, he specialised in the financial side of marital break-up and often acted in high-profile cases for the likes of Bill Wyman, Ringo Starr and Bianca Jagger.

Of his elevation to judge, he said: "It's wonderful to



be above the argument; to look down on all the confrontation. Obviously there are harrowing, heart-wrenching cases. But I find the role I have now gives me more peace of mind and more satisfaction. At the Bar the client paid you large sums to win and, if you didn't, you had failed. That pressure at least has gone.

"It is replaced by the pressure of often agonising decisions involving human situations. As a judge you are there to expound the law. There is a temptation to slip in a reference to your own prejudices. But you must draw back."

THE SOLICITOR

THE solicitor who represented Lady Conran was working in her first divorce case with such a high profile.

Erica Shelton, 40, is a matrimonial specialist of Rooks Rider, in Clerkenwell, central London. She had been retained by Lady Conran about 18 months ago after she had been advised by a divorced friend to consult her.

Mrs Shelton is a graduate of London University. She qualified as a solicitor in 1984 and has risen to her present position of head of her company's family law department. She has been married for ten years and has a four-year-old son, Edward.

The Conran case represents a major triumph. The



judge, in addition to awarding Lady Conran a sizeable sum for her "reasonable requirements", has also ordered Sir Terence to make a suitable contribution to account for the part Lady Conran had played in both the welfare of his family and the success of his business.

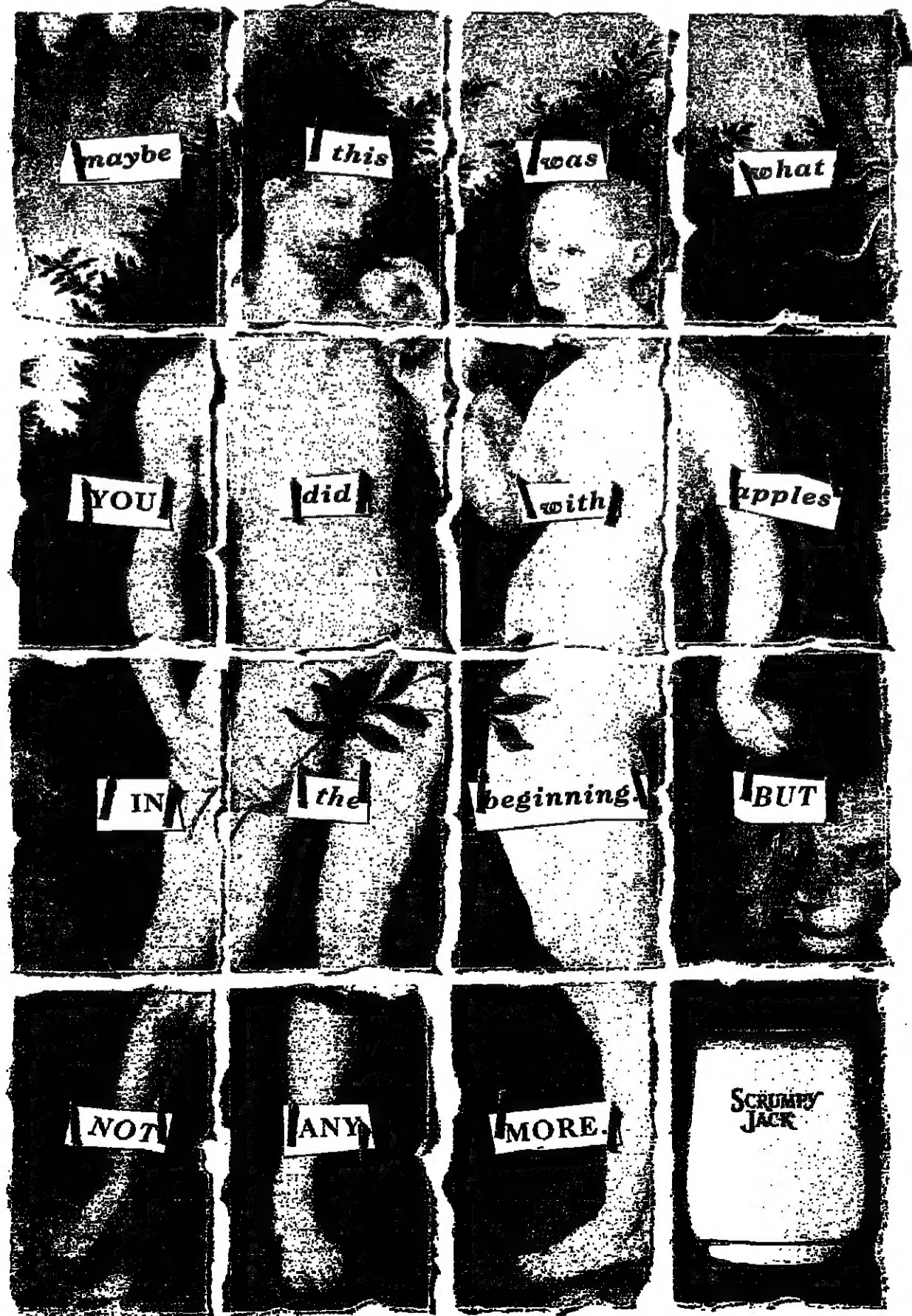
WHAT THE JUDGE SAID

On Lady Conran: "She was beautiful and, like the husband, creative, energetic and instinctively stylish... the wife's energy was almost as prodigious as that of her husband's, and her contribution to the welfare of the family in every sense was outstanding."

On Sir Terence: "It can be difficult for a man with a healthy ego who has achieved virtuous success to look down and discern a contribution other than his own."



Lady Conran's bolthole in Dorset, Bettiscombe Manor, to which she moved when the marriage finally ended



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Girl heard argument at site of 'road rage murder'

Child tells court of two fierce voices: one a man's, one soft, Joanna Bale reports

A NINE-YEAR-OLD girl clutching a teddy bear became a key witness in the trial of Tracie Andrews yesterday when she described hearing two people arguing at the murder scene.

The girl, who cannot be named, gave 37 minutes of videotaped evidence, in which she described a long and fierce argument between a man and a person with a "softer voice" at the time that Miss Andrews is alleged to have stabbed her fiancé, Lee Harvey, in a country lane. Miss Andrews, 28, who denies murder, has claimed that Mr Harvey, 25, died as a result of a "road rage" incident on December 1 last year.

The girl, who said she was woken up by the argument, was in bed at a cottage next to the murder scene in Alvechurch, Hereford and Worcester. Her mother was downstairs watching television with a friend.

The girl's taped interview was shown in a packed courtroom at Birmingham Crown Court. The girl, wearing a navy blue school

uniform, appeared to be relaxed, often smiling at the policewoman interviewing her. However, the court was told earlier that she had been traumatised by the murder and had difficulty sleeping.

After reassuring the girl that she was not in trouble and that her mother was in a room next to the police video suite, the policewoman said: "Tell me about what you heard." She answered articulately in a well-spoken voice: "I woke up ... I heard some people talking outside. It sounded like two people. There was definitely a man because he was shouting. It sounded as if he was arguing."

Playing with the teddy bear's ears, she went on: "I could hear Mummy and Richard talking downstairs and watching television. There was clapping [on the television]."

The girl described how the argument continued as she got out of bed and went to the lavatory. She said: "I went back to my room. I could hear the arguing. The man sounded quite fierce. It sounded



Tracie Andrews arriving at the courthouse yesterday

like he was trying to be really fierce to the other person."

As Miss Andrews sat in the dock looking at the floor, the rest of the court watched as the policewoman asked the girl if she remembered what day this happened. She said: "I don't know what the day was. It was the day that it happened."

The policewoman asked: "What?" She replied: "The murder." The girl went on to say that one

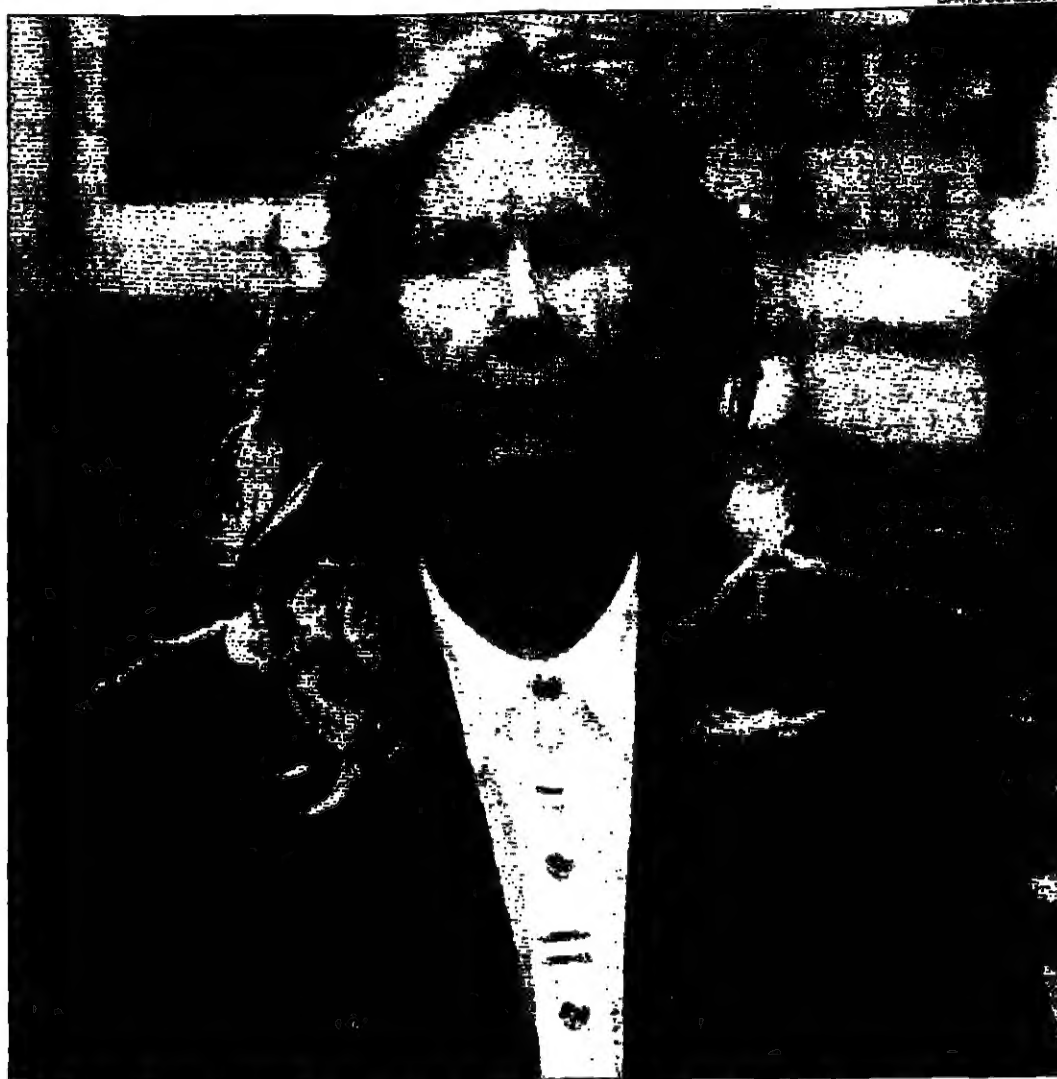
of the people she heard in the road outside her bedroom window was a man. She was not sure if the other was a man or a woman because the voice was soft. She said: "Whoever it was was shouting, but it was quite a soft voice ... you couldn't tell if it was a man's voice or a woman's voice."

The prosecution declined to cross-examine the girl by video link as she waited in a different room within the court building. Ronald Thwaites, QC, said: "After having seen the mother, I don't want to trouble this child."

Earlier the girl's mother told the court that her daughter had been traumatised by the aftermath of the murder as police and journalists called at the cottage and flowers laid by grieving relatives served as a constant reminder of the incident. She became frightened to go to bed alone, and often preferred to fall asleep downstairs and be carried up to bed.

The mother said: "She has certainly been very frightened by this ... it still obviously is on her mind." She added: "I have had to go to the doctor on several occasions. She certainly wasn't herself for some time afterwards."

The trial continues.



Susan Duncan, who lived near by, questioned Tracie Andrews about the alleged killers

Witness says she doubted tale of attack

TRACIE ANDREWS was questioned about her fiancé's murder minutes after it happened by a former detective constable who lived near by.

Susan Duncan, told the court that she had suspicions from the start about Miss Andrews's version of events because she had not been able to give her a detailed description of the car involved in the "road rage" incident in which she alleged that Lee Harvey died. Yet when the police arrived several minutes later Miss Andrews could tell them the car's make and colour and describe its passenger.

Mrs Duncan, who is now a solicitor, was one of the 15 people at the scene. Denying Miss Andrews's tale, she told the court: "She was covered in blood. It was all over her face, all over her hair, all down her top."

Mrs Duncan, who left West Midlands Police seven years ago, told the court: "Miss Andrews said that she had been to the pub with her boyfriend. She said that Lee had had an argument with some other men. She said that Lee had cut one of these men up, that he stopped the car, and that he shouldn't have."

She told him not to get out, but he did, and the next thing

she said was that she put her hand to her face and there was blood everywhere. What she said sounded very disjointed."

Mrs Duncan, who said she had often interviewed witnesses during her police career, then asked Miss Andrews six questions. She told the court: "I asked her if she had seen the colour of the vehicle. She said, 'No'. I asked her if she had seen the make of the car. She said, 'No'. I asked her if she had seen any part of the registration number. She said, 'No'. There was nothing about the vehicle she could recollect."

"I also asked her about the men. I asked her if she knew them. She said, 'No'. I asked her if she had ever seen them before. She said, 'No'. I asked her if she heard any names being used by these men. She said, 'No'."

But when the police arrived, Miss Andrews was able to give detailed descriptions. Mrs Duncan said: "I heard her tell the police that the other vehicle was a black Sierra and she was also adamant that the person responsible for assaulting Mr Harvey was the passenger and she gave a description of the passenger."

Mrs Duncan said she considered it strange and remarked on it to a police officer.

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Parker Bowles 'orchestrated royal wedding'

By CAROL MIDDLETON, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE marriage of the Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer was partly orchestrated by Camilla Parker Bowles as a way of continuing her own relationship with the Prince, a close friend has told a television documentary.

Charles Benson, who has known Mrs Parker Bowles for 30 years, said she hoped that by encouraging the romance she could be friends with both parties. He added that Mrs Parker Bowles, who is godmother to Mr Benson's daughter, should now be entitled to marry the Prince and be called Princess Camilla.

The documentary, *Camilla*, is to be screened on Channel 5 on Sunday night.

Mrs Parker Bowles was reported to be deeply distressed that private video footage of her addressing a charity dinner had been leaked to the documentary which will show her speaking on television for the first time.

But yesterday Christopher Wilson, the author and narrator of the film, insisted Mrs Parker Bowles knew Mr Benson was involved in it and did not ob-

ject. He had been assured that she was not upset about the video footage of her speaking at the headquarters of the National Osteoporosis Society, of which she is a patron.

Mr Wilson said: "She is godmother to Charles Benson's daughter, and Charles's ex-wife is godmother to Camilla's son Tom. They are still good friends."

Asked about her involvement in the royal wedding, Mr Benson tells the programme: "She certainly did encourage it, and I would say was very largely instrumental in the whole thing."

"I think she saw herself as doing everybody a good turn and in some ways, in her position as an ongoing, very, very unusually close friend to Prince Charles, she probably saw it as a good chance of them all continuing as friends, particularly if she encouraged it."

"That's the logical conclusion that any of us might make."

He adds: "I think they are entitled to each other. They've had all the hell, why should they not have some pleasure?"



Camilla Parker Bowles, subject of an hour-long documentary on Channel 5

BA 'hopeful' of ending airport catering dispute

Breakthrough as airline promises to protect staff privileges

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH AIRWAYS was last night "optimistic" that a package of proposals aimed at ending the dispute involving catering staff at Heathrow would be accepted.

More than two days of talks ended last night with BA agreeing to protect all privileges for staff and their families after the catering unit had been sold off to an outside company — a key sticking point in earlier negotiations.

Other proposals included a pro-rata share of BA profits, options to buy shares, no compulsory redundancies and the chance of applying for permanent jobs within BA.

The package was considered at a mass meeting of the catering unit which BA wants to sell off. They have now decided to consider it overnight and will respond within the next few days.

"This is an excellent package," said BA chief executive Bob Ayling last night. "I would urge employees to talk to their family and their friends and they will recognise that this deal is in the best

interests of them, their colleagues, our customers and our airline."

Moreover, pressure was mounting on British Airways cabin crew last night to call off their threat of industrial action. All 7,500 members of BASSA, a Transport and General Workers Union offshoot, received a letter from a former senior official of the union warning that they were in danger of committing "industrial suicide" by threatening to walk out at the peak of the summer holiday season.

Malcolm Falconer, who for many years was a leading official of BASSA (British Airlines Stewards and Stewardesses Association), said that the strike call was the result of "mis-calculated decision and arrogant intransigence on the part of BASSA officials."

He warned striking was no solution and that it was being called only to ensure the "integrity and future of BASSA itself."

"It is time some of us put our heads above the parapet and took some responsibility for resolving this industrial mess for the future," he wrote.

"Take time to reflect. There are other ways that are a lot less harmful in the long term than a strike. Go to war on this one if you want, but with the BASSA leadership in disarray and a disunited workforce with no agreed goals to be achieved, my measured opinion is that you will be committing industrial suicide."

At the same time the break-away union, Cabin Crew 89, claimed a continuing flood of new members and urged the TGWU to work with its members towards a solution. "It will be a tragedy for all cabin crew if this strike goes ahead," said Jim Welsh, general secretary of Cabin Crew 89.

The bigger union, BASSA, had called regular strikes every 18 months he said and seemed determined to find a reason to strike. "They have called more strikes than Arthur Scargill ever did," said Mr Welsh.

British Airways, meanwhile, put forward a proposal to end the cabin crew dispute to Acas which included a fast iron guarantee that no staff member would be worse off under the proposed new salary structure.

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Aid pledge for flood victims

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Government promised aid to Moray last night as farmers and householders counted the cost of flood damage.

Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, said: "Although the extent of the damage is still being assessed, it is clear there has been widespread devastation."

He said he was activating the Bellwin Scheme, governing council spending in big-scale emergencies. This means Moray council will pay the first £162,000 of its additional costs, but the Government will pick up 85 per cent of the bill above that.

About 1,200 people made homeless by the flooding ven-

tures back to their properties yesterday to see the extent of the damage, estimated to cost millions of pounds.

As the huge clean-up operation begins, more rain is forecast and high tides in the mid-evening mean that the danger of further flooding remains a possibility.

John Summers, the council's director of technical and leisure services, said the main problem was 21 landslides that have blocked two roads and caused subsidence. Six families at Phor, near Forres, have been cut off after the only bridge was washed away. Another two bridges in the area are causing concern.

CORRECTIONS

□ Videotapes of the Hillsborough football disaster, from cameras under police control, are not missing (report, June 27), but have been securely kept and were made available to Lord Justice Taylor's inquiry and to the inquest on the victims.

□ Sir John Walley's letter (July 1), referred to a Bill prepared under Ramsey MacDonald's Government for a 48-hour week, not 40 as printed.

□ Sir Desmond Pitcher and Brian Staples, chairman and chief executive respectively of United Utilities, did not receive bonuses in 1997, contrary to a report yesterday.

Professor

K. McConkey

A report (June 10) on proceedings brought by Peter Nahum against Royal Holloway and Bedford New College incorrectly stated that Professor Kenneth McConkey, Dean of Art and Design at the University of Northumbria, had received commission on the sale of a Constable painting. As subsequent evidence made clear, Professor McConkey did not receive any commission. We apologise for the embarrassment caused.

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Doctors want to set Hippocrates to verse

By IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

DOCTORS have begun a search for a poet who can set pulses racing with a updated version of the medical oath that will ring down the centuries and inspire all who enter the profession.

They want an injection of drama from the Muses after deciding that a draft revision of the 2,500-year-old Hippocratic oath, prepared by their ethics committee, was too long, boring, prosaic and sounded like... well, something written by a committee.

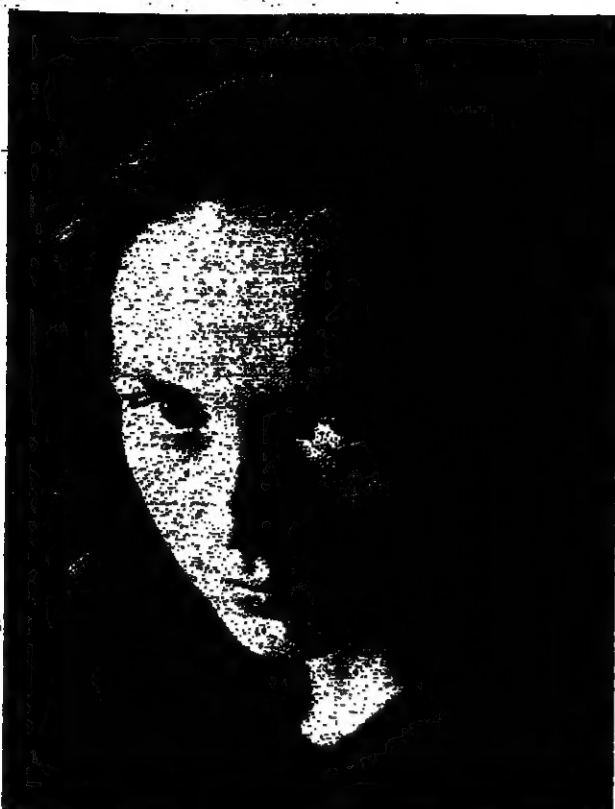
The finished work must translate intelligibly into every known language, must not be dull and must set out the basic principles that should guide a good doctor's life. The challenge was issued at the annual meeting of the British Medical Association yesterday after Dr Mark Porter, a junior anaesthetist at Walsgrave Hospital in Coventry, called the new oath, produced after two years' labour, a disaster. "An oath to be taken by millions of doctors down the centuries surely needs translating into poetry as a ringing declaration of principle," he said.

The association had spent £21,000 redesigning its logo and the only obvious change was that the background had changed from a square to a circle. "If we can spend that sort of money on that sort of thing, surely we can spend half that amount to engage a poet and get him to produce a proper version," he added.

The Hippocratic Oath starts by swearing to "Apollo the physician, and Aesculapius and Health, and All-heal and all the gods and goddesses" that the doctor will follow a system for the benefit of his patients, abstain from mischievous behaviour and will pass life in purity and holiness. Producing abortions and giving deadly medicines are not allowed. Confidentiality is crucial. Seduction of females or males, freemen or slaves is forbidden.

The ethics committee had been asked to draw up a replacement oath by the World Medical Association, which wanted an up-to-date wording that could be used internationally. The draft version of the new oath is nearly three times as long as the old, beginning ringingly with "The practice of medicine is a privilege which carries important responsibilities".

"Core values" and patients' rights crop up among the modern jargon. It accepts that abortion can be legal "within



Lavinia Greenlaw: "Oath is for GPs who fill in forms"

OATH POEM

I will answer as truthfully as I can.
Whatever I see or hear, I will not divulge.
I will acknowledge my mistakes.
With purity and holiness will I practise my art.
I will not provide treatments that are pointless.
I will give no deadly medicine nor suggest it.
I will not put personal profit or advancement first.
I will impart a knowledge of the Art to my own sons.

By Lavinia Greenlaw, Writer-in-Residence at the Science Museum, 1995

OATH HAIKU

Seek wisdom in care; respectful healing for Life,
compassionate death.
By Dr Edwin Borman, consultant anaesthetist at Walsgrave Hospital, Coventry, former chairman of the BMA's junior doctors' committee. Haiku is a formal 17-syllable Japanese poem which is meant to encapsulate the essential aspects of an experience and encourage further thought about it.

an ethical and legal framework. Doctors are expected to help patients "with limited mental awareness".

Confidentiality is still important, but the draft allows for the possibility that it might not be possible to guarantee it. Doctors are meant to oppose policies which breach human rights and must promise to change laws which are contrary to patients' interests.

Dr Sandy Macara, chairman of the association, who quoted Burns to back his argument against euthanasia

in another debate, liked the idea of calling in a poet. "I am all for pretty writers," he said. "We should see if we could inject something into this."

Dr Hector Spiteri, a GP from Redbridge, east London, said the oath could be summed up in two sentences: "The physician shall selflessly practise medicine for the sole benefit of the patient and shall avoid causing him harm. He shall do so with respect, integrity and compassion and without any form of prejudice. That is enough."

to finish them off". When he asked them if they really wanted him to come along with a syringe and end it all, they all changed their minds. He had treated patients who had been able to live for some time with a good quality of life after proper treatment to control their physical, mental and spiritual pain.

Dr Stuart said he was sometimes suspicious of the motives of relatives who asked for someone to be put out of their misery. Even though most were seriously concerned about the suffering of someone they loved, there were some who wanted to get their hands on an expected legacy.

Poets take up call to produce a new oath

By MARK HENDERSON

SOME of Britain's leading poets are ready to take up the BMA's challenge to improve on the bland version of the updated Hippocratic oath.

Lavinia Greenlaw, the daughter of two doctors, who was Writer-in-Residence at the Science Museum in 1995, was the first to throw her hat into the ring. She had already worked up a lyrical alternative to the new oath last night, using lines from both the old and the new ones.

"I can see why doctors today would want a more useful and relevant oath, but the BMA version is weak and troublingly provisional. Everything is 'to the best of my ability', she said.

"It offers no inspiration because it is so bureaucratic. It is an oath for GPs who manage funds and fill in forms. The Hippocratic Oath is an emotional thing that shows the worth of medicine, and that emotion is lost in bland and equivocal language."

Dr Dannie Abse, a London GP who has published more than ten collections of poems, many with a medical theme, said he would love to have a go at improving the new oath.

"This new version is completely without spirit and cadence," he said. "I suppose the original oath may not have been poetic when it was written, but the point is that, whereas it has cadence and poetry, the present one sounds like it was written by a computer."

"Of course, today's medical students are so ignorant they may be more at home with computer-speak than poetry, anyway."

He said he agreed with the sentiments behind the new oath, but thought its good intentions did not come through in the new language. "I could have a lot of fun rewriting it."

Robert Nye, the author of *Falstaff*, who reviews poems for *The Times*, said the BMA should never have tampered with Hippocrates in the first place. "I really can't see much wrong with the original," he said. "This stuff is meaty-mouthed."

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Head teacher gave pupils test answers

Resignation after 'terrible mistake' is blamed on the pressures of combining administration and teaching. John O'Leary reports

THE head teacher of a primary school has resigned after admitting that he cheated in this summer's national tests by giving pupils answers in advance.

George Senk wrote to parents announcing his resignation and telling them that he had opened the science paper a week before the test and talked to a class of 11-year-olds about the questions. He had been suspended as head of Bradford primary school, near Harwich in Essex, after confessing to test officials and governors.

The resignation comes less than a week after reports of widespread cheating prompted Estelle Morris, the Education Minister responsible for school standards, to demand an investigation by the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority. She said she was "absolutely appalled" that teachers might have acted unprofessionally to improve their schools' position in league tables.

A SCAA spokeswoman said that almost 50 schools were being investigated, although most of the incidents involved individual pupils

rather than suspicions of organised cheating. "Markers are asked to report any possible cases of cheating, but we do not believe it is widespread."

In his letter to parents Mr Senk, 52, said he had given the school's 13 candidates a "short quiz" on two science topics he knew would be tested. "I then realised that I had made a terrible mistake, which was caused by the extreme pressures upon me by my growing responsibilities within the school."

The 100-pupil school did not feature in this year's league table because it had too few candidates, but the current class of 11-year-olds would qualify for inclusion. Mr Senk said he did not want any of the children to be disadvantaged as they moved to secondary school.

His resignation cut short an official inquiry, which had prevented Mr Senk or the governors from making any statement on the affair.

Mr Senk, speaking from his bungalow home in Clacton-on-Sea yesterday, said: "Heads of small schools are under horrendous pres-

ures and it has become an almost impossible task to be a teacher and an administrator. I have a staff of three and a part-time secretary and I still have to work from 7.30 in the morning until late at night."

The tests did not necessarily produce an accurate reflection of the school or the ability of its pupils, said Mr Senk, who had been head teacher at Bradford for almost ten years. Mathematics and English papers sent to the school were not opened in advance, and all the tests had gone ahead as planned.

Mike Barnett, Essex County Council education spokesman, said: "It is a very sad end to a head teacher's career. It reflects the stress he was under at the time, which was made worse by the prospect of individuals' results being published."

Mr Barnett said the information gathered in the authority's inquiry would be passed on to the Department for Education and Employment. He added that Mr Senk wished to return to schools and might become a classroom teacher.



The English doctor Anthony Minghella, British director of *The English Patient*, after receiving an honorary doctorate of literature yesterday at Hull University, where he lectured until 1981

Rules on teaching religion ignored

By DAVID CHARTER

SCHOOLS with pupils from the ethnic minority spend less time teaching Christianity in RE lessons, inspectors said yesterday. Their findings suggest that many schools are flouting the 1988 Education Act which states RE teaching should be "in the main Christian".

Research at 90 schools by Ofsted, the school inspectorate, showed the balance of faiths taught to children was significantly affected by the proportion of pupils from a non-Christian background.

One in four of the schools spent less than a third of its lessons on Christianity. One infant school in Kirkcaldy, west Yorkshire, where all the children are Muslim, taught only about Islam.

Richard Wilkins, general secretary of the Association of Christian Teachers, said teachers were frightened of Christianity. "If the ethnic mix of a school gives the slightest excuse, Christianity will be drastically reduced."

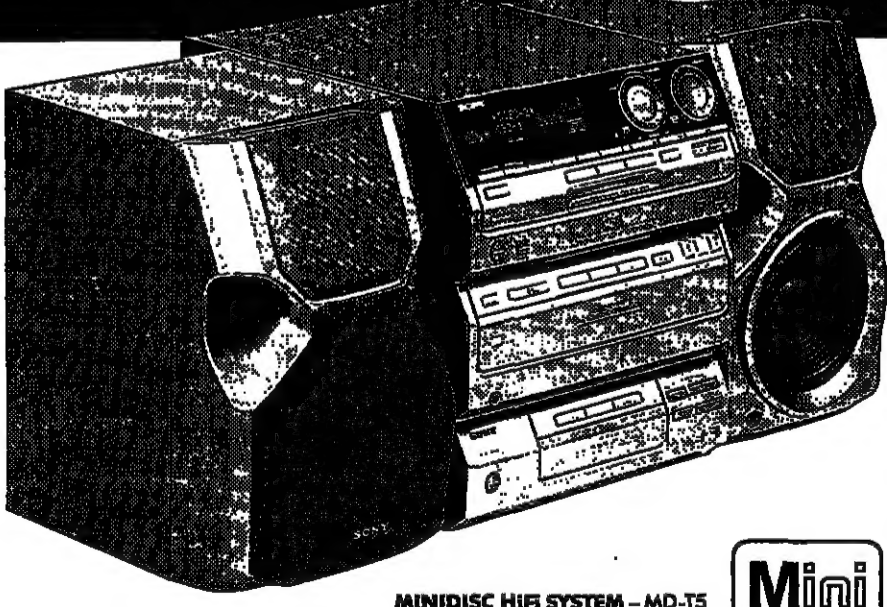
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An easy stroke diagnosis may disguise the real problem



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

ELDERLY stroke victims are not the only ones who are shamefully underinvestigated and undertreated. Anthony Clarke, medical director of the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases in Bath, and consultant in charge of the neuro-rehabilitation unit at the hospital, said yesterday.

Dr Clarke, speaking at the annual meeting of the trustees of the medical charity Remedi, gave examples of middle-aged patients where the medical interest in their condition had evaporated once the diagnosis of a stroke had been made, but who in fact had responded to treatment once the correct diagnoses had been reached.

A typical case history, Dr Clarke said, was that of Sarah Jones (not her real name), who was aged 55 when she fell in her kitchen. After the fall Sarah had signs of severe brain damage and the assumption was made that she had only fallen because she had had a stroke. Paralyzed, with difficulty swallowing and speaking, she was transferred to the rehabilitation unit after several weeks in an acute hospital ward.

She had no expert, or even detailed, neurological examination but when she had the appropriate scans and other routine investigations it was found that the root of her trouble was not a stroke, but a head injury. Sarah had tripped in the kitchen and hit her head so hard on the floor that it had caused enough damage to give rise to an

internal hydrocephalus. In hydrocephalus there is an obstruction to the free flowing of the cerebro-spinal fluid within the brain so that the pressure within the skull rises dangerously.

Once Sarah had been fitted with a valve to allow the fluid to drain her symptoms vanished and she was able to be discharged home capable of looking after herself.

Another patient who had been misdiagnosed as a stroke victim was a 49-year-old man who on admission had signs of a generalised and severe right-sided weakness together with a loss of ability to speak. The man, although he was younger than the physician who was initially treating him, was thought to be too old to warrant extensive and expensive treatment.

It transpired that the patient had not had a stroke at all but was suffering from lupus (SLE). Inflammation of the cerebral blood vessels, which can occur in lupus, had given rise to the signs and symptoms which mimic the signs of a stroke. After treatment with steroids the patient was soon ready for discharge. One simple blood test, the ESR, usually done as a routine measure would have alerted the doctor.

Dr Clarke has shown that a thorough investigation of patients with a stroke, even if elderly, should include a full neurological examination, scanning, investigation of the neck arteries, chest X-rays, blood tests and an ECG.

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Chartered accountant did not log payments

LITTLE credit is given to Tim Smith for being the only Tory MP to admit before the Downey Inquiry began that he had been in the pay of Mohamed Al Fayed (Andrew Pierce writes).

Mr Smith, who received £50 notes stuffed in brown envelopes or delivered by motorcycle courier to his home, denied as late as 1993 that he had tabled questions for cash. "This lack of candour by Mr Smith, and the uncertainty over the total sums he received from Mr Al Fayed, are matters of great concern," Sir Gordon

TIM SMITH

says. "Mr Smith is a chartered accountant and I should have expected him to have more accurate records."

Nine months after the inquiry began, Mr Smith has failed to supply Sir Gordon with documents to show that he paid VAT on the payments from the Egyptian businessman. The sums were so great that Mr Smith lost track of the total. Even Mr Al Fayed could not keep accurate records, he thought he had handed over £10,000 in two years but Mr Smith admitted the total was £18,000-£25,000.

He is criticised not only for failing to declare the payments in the Commons register but also because he was according to the preference of his Harrods paymaster.

The inquiry by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards revealed a first instalment of £5,000 was handed over in an envelope in May 1987. Mr Smith had claimed that Mr Al Fayed initiated the arrangement but the owner of Harrods said the payment was expected.

The payments ceased in January 1989 when Tony Rowland, the owner of Lomho who was a bitter business rival of Mr Al Fayed, wrote an open letter that exposed it.

Mr Smith "hesitantly" declared a financial interest for a period of two and a half weeks in January 1989. The report says: "This has to be seen as a disingenuous attempt at concealment. On any view, this was a totally unacceptable form of registration by Mr Smith."

Hamilton's credibility torn to shreds by 'compelling evidence'

Andrew Pierce itemises the case against the former Tatton MP as seen by Sir Gordon Downey

NEIL HAMILTON, whose defiant rejection of the cash for questions allegations overshadowed the Tory election campaign, is found to have accepted at least £25,000.

The damning conclusions of the report disclose that Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner, effectively dismissed Mr Hamilton's 36,000-word submission to the inquiry as untrue. Mr Hamilton's credibility is torn to shreds in the 900-page report. He is found to have taken cash for questions: concern is expressed at a failure to declare the payments to the Inland Revenue; he is found to have lied to Michael Heseltine in a desperate battle to keep his ministerial job.

Sir Gordon wrote: "The evidence that Mr Hamilton received cash payments directly from Mr Al Fayed, in return for lobbying services, is compelling, and so I conclude."

The payments, Sir Gordon concluded, were unlikely to be less than the £18,000 to £25,000 received by Tim Smith. Mr Al Fayed claimed the figure was closer to £50,000. "The way in which these payments were received and concealed fell well below the standards expected of MPs," the report said.

The commissioner rejected Mr Hamilton's denials in favour of the word of two "reliable witnesses" — the two secretaries for Mr Al Fayed who told the inquiry they regularly took messages from Mr and Mrs Hamilton when

the "payments were late".

The killer blow to Mr Hamilton's case was the admission to the inquiry by Tim Smith, then MP for Beaconsfield, that he had accepted between £18,000 and £25,000 from Mr Al Fayed.

"In both the timing and the method of payment, Mr Smith's case provides strong support for Mr Al Fayed's allegations against Mr Hamilton," Sir Gordon wrote. "Further, I have not received any convincing explanation as to why Mr Al Fayed should make truthful allegations of cash payments to Mr Smith — but similar untruthful allegations in relation to Mr Hamilton."

"It is difficult to escape the conclusion that, as the inquiry has progressed and more and more has been discovered, Mr Hamilton's credibility has suffered increasingly serious damage."

However, Sir Gordon rejected the charge by Mr Al Fayed that the payments to Mr Hamilton were funnelled through Mr Greer. "There is no evidence to indicate that Mr Hamilton received cash indirectly through Mr Greer."

Mr Hamilton is also taken to task for failing to declare the two commission payments from Mr Greer which included paintings and furniture worth £10,000. He said it was a matter for the Inland Revenue whether there should be an investigation. "However, I remain concerned about these matters."

In another damning conclusion, Mr Hamilton was said to have "persistently and deliberately" failed to declare his interests in the House of Fraser and Skoal Bandits, a chewing tobacco company, and was "positively misleading" about the status of his representations.



Neil Hamilton and his wife, Christine, leaving their home in London yesterday ahead of publication of the report

Sir Gordon also censured

Mr Hamilton over the stay at the Ritz hotel in Paris during which he ran up a £2,500 bill with his wife, Christine. Mr Hamilton denied the stay was part of his reward for lobbying.

The commissioner disagreed. He said that it was beyond dispute that Mr Hamilton was engaged in considerable activity on Mr Al Fayed's behalf. "This hospitality was part of his reward for lobbying services. It was not, as it should have been, registered."

When the allegations broke in *The Guardian*, Michael Heseltine, then President of the Board of Trade, had

telephoned Mr Hamilton, junior DTI minister, and was protesting his innocence. Mr Hamilton had deliberately misled Mr Heseltine by providing "an absolute assurance that he had no financial relationship with Mr Greer."

Leading article, page 21

MP 'closed his eyes to source of money'

By Polly Newton and James Landale

THE report upholds the central allegation against Sir Andrew Bowden that he accepted a £5,300 fee in return for lobbying on behalf of Mohamed Al Fayed.

The money, from Mr Al Fayed, was paid via the lobbying company Ian Greer Associates for Sir Andrew's election fighting fund in the 1987 campaign.

Sir Gordon said that it would be "unsafe to conclude" that Sir Andrew either de-

BOWDEN AND GRYLLS

manded or received money for himself, which was alleged by Mr Al Fayed. However, the report said that Sir Andrew must either have known about "or closed his eyes to" the probable source of the money. He is criticised for failing to declare the donation.

Sir Andrew, who lost his Brighton constituency seat at the election, has always denied Mr Al Fayed's claim that he asked for an annual fee of £50,000. He has also denied that he knew the money towards his election expenses had come from Mr Al Fayed.

The report said that Sir Andrew had earned the payment for tabling Parliamentary Questions about Mr Al Fayed's takeover of the House of Fraser and Harrods.

Sir Michael Grylls, the former Tory MP for Surrey North-West, deliberately misled a Commons committee by understating the number of commission payments he received from Ian Greer, the report said.

Sir Michael, 63, who stood down at the election, also failed to inform the Select Committee on Members' Interests of other payments he received from the lobbyist.

The report concluded that Sir Michael did receive payments from Ian Greer but not in cash.

However, it was not possible to conclude that these payments originated from Mr Al Fayed, although Sir Michael actively participated in the Greer lobbying operation. But the report said the link was a "distinct possibility".

After-dinner circuit beckons for man at wit's end

By Andrew Pierce

THE AFTERMATH

DISCIPLINARY proceedings will begin today at the Institute of Chartered Accountants which could result in Tim Smith being struck off the register.

The move, which will be a serious setback to Mr Smith's attempts to relaunch a career in the City, came as it emerged that Ian Greer, the lobbyist, has been forced to sell his

£500,000 home in southwest London. Mr Greer, who was exonerated of the charge of being the conduit for Mohamed Al Fayed to pay Neil Hamilton and Mr Smith, has not worked since his libel trial against *The Guardian* collapsed in October last year. His company, Ian Greer Associates, which at the peak

of its powers had a £35 million annual turnover, has gone into voluntary liquidation.

Mr Hamilton, a barrister specialising in taxation, has told friends that he would like to work with a City law firm. But the devastating conclusions of the report have almost certainly put paid to his ambitions. He is more likely to seek out a living on the after-dinner circuit. One of the former MP's

friends said last night: "He is desperate. All he has got is the hope that he can make a name for himself in television and the media as a pundit and wit. But I am not sure people think he is funny anymore."

Yesterday Mr Hamilton and his wife, Christine, demanded £75 fees from broadcasters for interviews. Their house will also be up for sale. The Institute of Chartered Accountants decided to delay launching an

investigation into Mr Smith, a member for 30 years, until the report was published. But the confirmation that he accepted cash, and failed to pay income tax on the payments, has damaged his standing with the Institute.

A committee will conduct the investigation and it is expected the members find that there is a case to answer he will be ordered before a private hearing.

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Stickler for detail dug deep for truth

COMMISSIONER

devastating, but what is intriguing is why they did not appear during the last Parliament.

Sir Gordon's task was clearly cumbersome and at the start of his inquiry he had a serious bout of influenza. Some blame was directed at *The Guardian* for taking a long time to deliver documents. But the process was delayed too by his insatiable demand for detail.

It is clear that the main political parties were in no haste to see the report published before the election. Sir Gordon, who will be 70 next April, was working part-time, four days a

working part-time, four days a week. If MPs really had wanted speedier publication, there is no doubt that Sir Gordon would have worked a full week. All the parties believed that he should be allowed to work

One Westminster source said: "Sir Gordon is a consummate bureaucrat. That is why he was such a fine civil servant. He absorbs detail and paper, and politicians were prepared to give him time. He is a stickler on rules."

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

leagues on its executive, who so vigorously objected to the Nolan report two years ago.

The Downey inquiry vindicates not only his appointment as Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards but also the tighter controls on outside interests and the requirements for more open disclosure introduced after Nolan. If these controls had been brought in a decade or more ago, this affair might not have developed, or it would have been clearer much earlier that Mr Hamilton and others were breaking Parliament's rules.

The "cash for questions" affair has taken far too long to be sorted out, though even dipping yesterday into the three volumes shows why. It is an extraordinary, probably unique, business. When publication of the Downey report was held up by the calling of the general election, critics argued that the whole process of self-regulation was flawed. Yesterday's report shows that this verdict was premature.

However, improvements are needed. First, as Sir Gordon admitted in his preface to the pre-election edition of the register of members' interests, standards of disclosure of payments under the new rules are patchy. The new Standards and Privileges Committee needs to tighten enforcement.

Second, the committee's procedures for hearing complaints are defective and need to be put on a more judicial basis. If a complaint is being pursued, both the case for and that against should be presented by a lawyer, with the committee acting more like a judge and jury. The full House would, as now, decide whether to approve any recommended sanctions.

Third, the Government has

October 1994: *The Guardian* exposes the "cash-for-questions" scandal and Stuart Bell, Labour's former industry spokesman, tells the Commons that Neil Hamilton and Tina Smith received cash from Mohamed Al Fayed. Mr Smith resigns as junior Northern Ireland Minister. Mr Hamilton resigns as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. Government of Trade Minister and saves *The Guardian* for libel.

March 1995: Mr Hamilton accused of breaching Parliamentary rules by not declaring stay at Ritz Hotel, Paris.

November 1995: Sir Gordon Downey appointed standards commissioner.

October 1996: Mr Hamilton and Ian Greer pull out of *Guardian* libel action. Later, Mr Hamilton admits accepting commissions of £6,000 and £4,000 for introducing new clients to Mr Greer. An all-party committee is set up to investigate sleaze and Sir Gordon is asked to report.

March 1997: Interim report clears 15 of the 25 MPs said to have taken illicit payments.

May 1, 1997: Mr Hamilton loses his Tatton seat to Martin Bell, standing as an anti-sleaze candidate.

June 1997: Jonathan Aiken pulls out of libel action against *The Guardian*.

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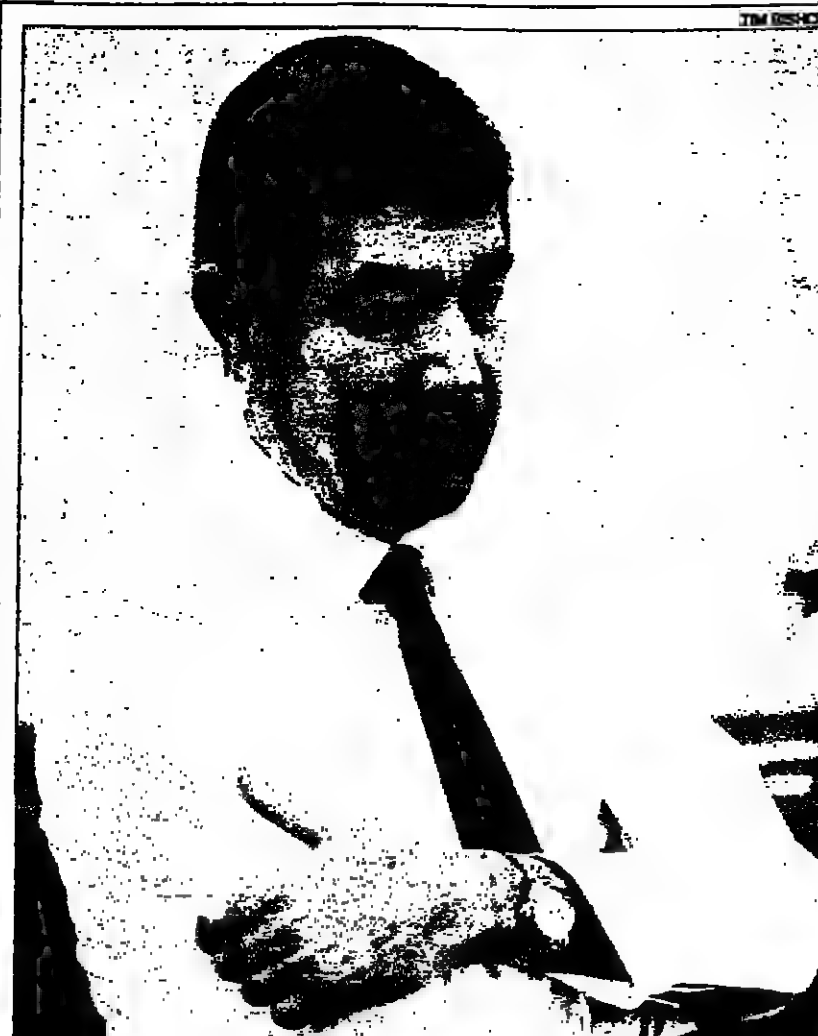
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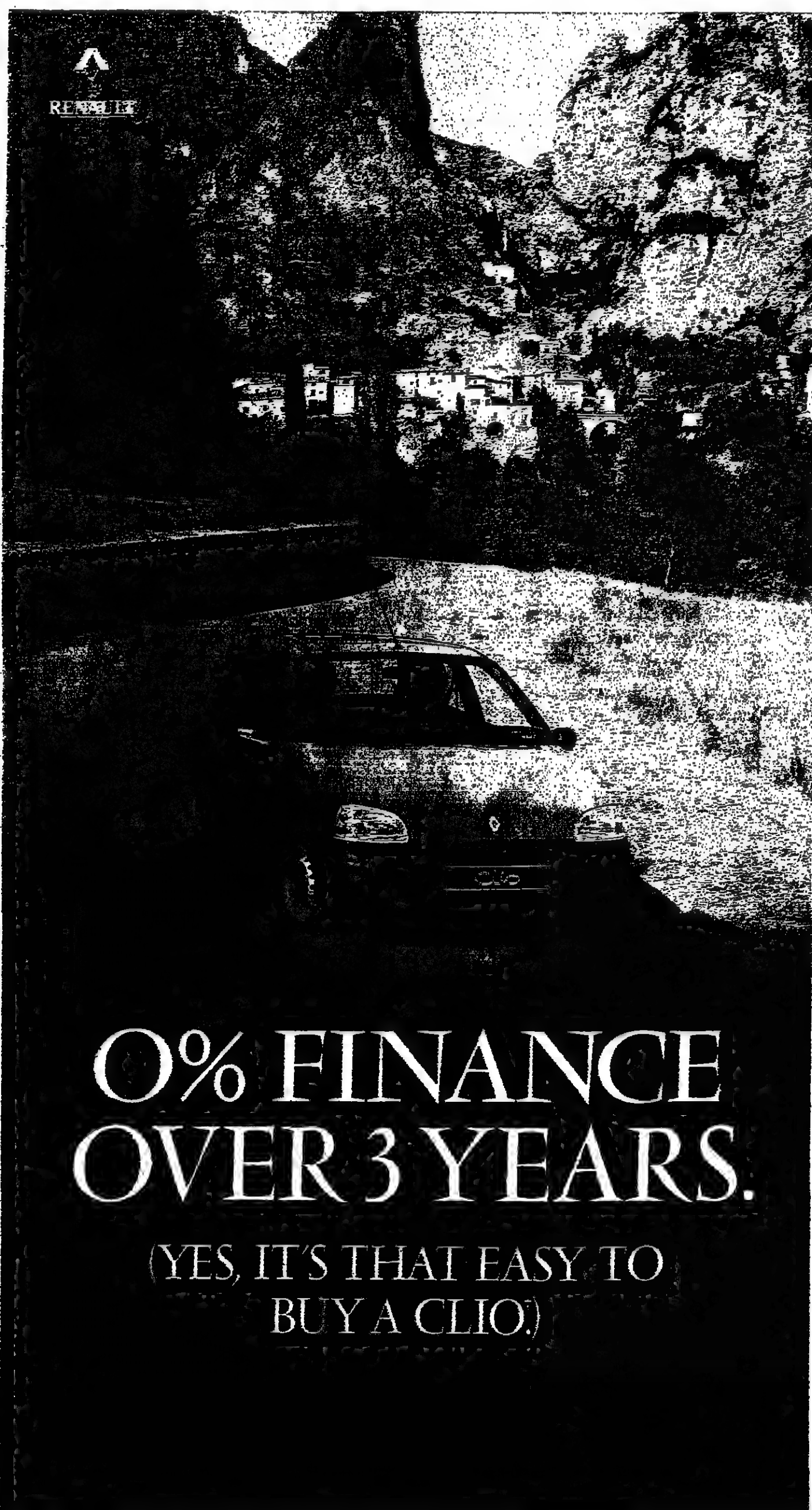
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Sir Gordon Downey: Civil Service background equipped him for task



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Troops prepare for the worst in march stalemate

Nicholas Watt reports on another standoff at Drumcree

THOUSANDS of troops will be sent to guard strategic locations throughout Northern Ireland this weekend if no agreement is reached on the route of the marching season's most contentious parade.

The aim would be to prevent a repeat of the disturbances sparked off by last year's march in Drumcree, Co. Antrim, and Belfast airport to stop any loyalists who try to bring Northern Ireland to a standstill. Hardline Orangemen, who virtually paralysed the province last year, have drawn up plans to blockade ports and main roads if the march scheduled for Sunday is banned.

Troops will also be sent to flashpoints in Belfast and Londonderry to control any rioting by republicans if the

march is forced down the Roman Catholic Garvaghy Road into Portadown. Republicans have appointed "Catholic defence committees".

Serious loyalist violence erupted throughout Northern Ireland last year when Orangemen were banned from marching along the Garvaghy

to go, hopes of a settlement are fading. The source said: "We cannot allow the ports and airports to be blocked. What happened last year was very damaging for Northern Ireland and we cannot afford a repeat of that. The Government stopped the miners in the 1980s, so why not do that in Northern Ireland?"

The security forces will also aim to prevent Orangemen from outside the Portadown area massing at Drumcree church as they did last year. There will be no bus service for marchers this year.

The 17,000 troops in the province, who are trained to deal with public order disturbances before beginning their tours of duty, have received refresher courses in the run-up to Drumcree.

Efforts by the Government were continuing yesterday to



Fred Oliver will lead Sunday's Orange Order march: "If nationalists don't like the parade, they should go inside and close their front doors"

find a peaceful solution. Tony Blair discussed the parade with Bertie Ahern at their first meeting since the Irish Prime Minister was elected last month. Britain will be hoping that Mr Ahern can help to calm fears among Portadown Catholics.

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, yesterday backed a compromise plan proposed by Bob McCartney, the United Kingdom Unionist MP for North Down. Under this proposal Orangemen would march down part of the Garvaghy Road but not the contentious stretch.

However, Brendan Mac Cionnail, the head of the Garvaghy Residents' Group, insisted that the march had to be stopped. Mr Mac Cionnail, a convicted terrorist, said: "The Drumcree march is all about who runs the Six Counties. Is it the British Government, or is it the Orangemen?"

'Changing route will make our future insecure'

THE ORANGEMAN

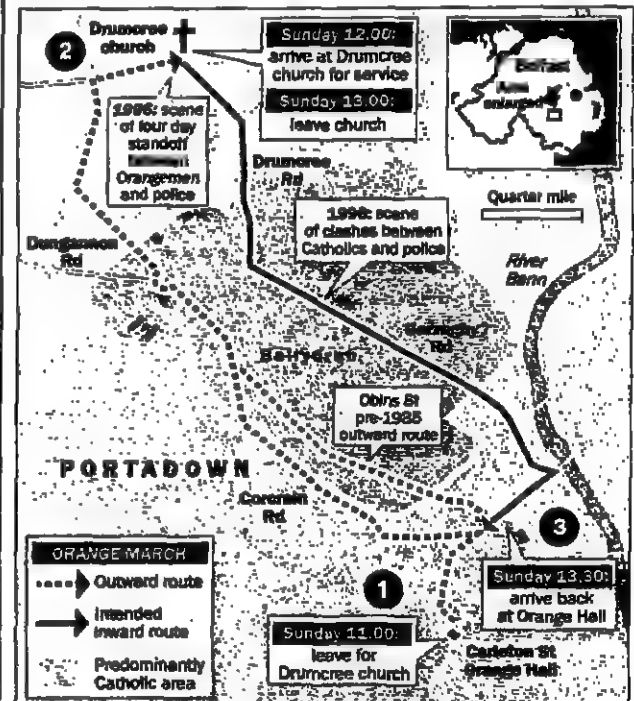
FRED OLIVER, 57, who has marched down Garvaghy Road for 23 years, will lead Sunday's Orange parade as the Portadown District Sword Bearer.

"It is very important for me and for my family that we follow our traditional route because my father carried the Portadown District banner on the parade for more than 20 years after the war. Orangemen have marched down the Garvaghy Road for nearly 200 years and if we change our traditional route we will be making our future even less secure."

"There was no problem with our march until Sinn Féin-IRA stoked it up to pick

a fight with us and to turn us against the police. If nationalists don't like the parade, they should go inside and close their front doors behind them, just as I switch channels on television if I don't like a programme. They've accused our bands of playing sectarian songs, but on Sundays we only ever play hymns."

"The church service will commemorate the Battle of the Somme in 1916. We will be remembering not just the Protestants who died in the battle but also the Catholics. We have never abused anyone during our parade and the only abuse comes from the Garvaghy Road."



'Triumphalism made us angry'

THE PORTADOWN CATHOLIC

KATHLEEN BROWN, 36, lives next to Garvaghy Road and is married with three young children. Her brother-in-law was killed in an Ulster Volunteer Force bomb attack in Portadown in 1994.

"For so long the scales of justice in Northern Ireland were uneven. Over the past 25 years we have seen them evening out a bit because nationalists have stood up for their rights."

"I have sat on the Garvaghy Road for the past two years and will do so again for another two years to keep the Orangemen out of our area. They don't want to march in their own area, because they wouldn't be annoying anyone. Their parades are beating bitterness into my children. I do not want any trouble and I don't want to see anyone hurt. But we can only vote Sinn Féin because they are the only ones who speak out for us."

"The Orangemen say we

should not be upset by their march because it passes in five minutes. But they're forgetting that last year we were banned into our homes for three days."

"When we protested against the parade, we were beaten outside our homes. Their behaviour last year and the triumphalism of 1995 has deepened our anger."



Kathleen Brown: will sit in the path of marchers

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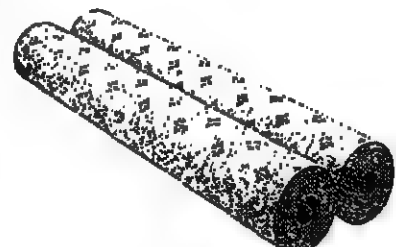
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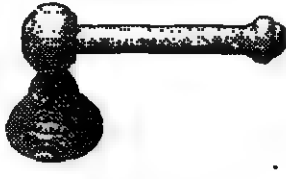


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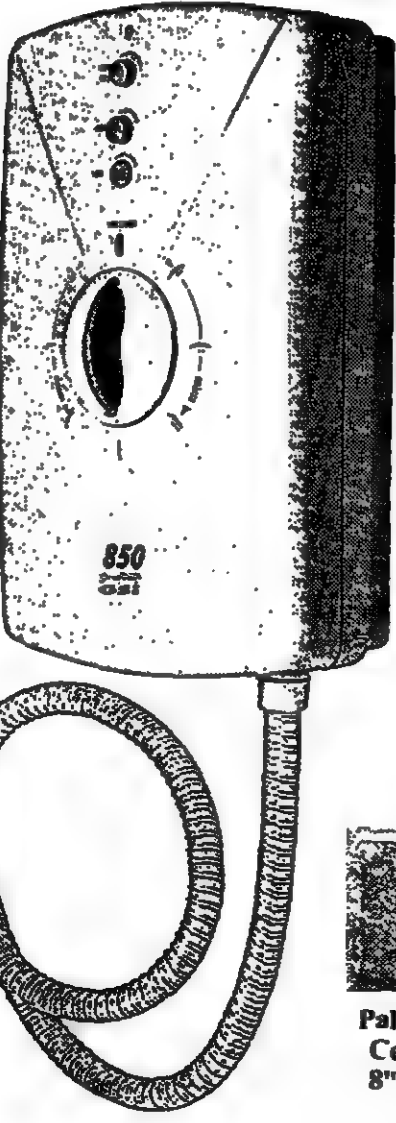


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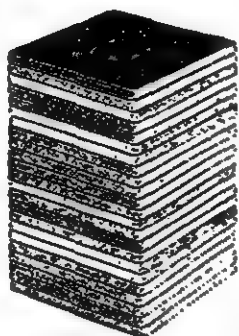


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Shadow on Mir's future after new solar power loss

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

THE stricken Russian space station Mir, damaged by a collision last week, was hit by another problem yesterday when its alignment system broke down, causing a further loss of power and casting greater doubts over the long-term future of the mission.

Sergei Krikalyov, a former Mir cosmonaut, who is now deputy chief of the programme at the mission control centre near Moscow, said there was an unexplained malfunction in the station's gyroscopes, the electrical devices that keep the complex correctly aligned to the Sun in order that its solar panel can pick up maximum power.

He said the station was having to use its rocket boosters to maintain the correct alignment, using up valuable supplies of fuel. "There is no danger for the cosmonauts or for the station, as we have enough fuel, but it is unpleasant," he said.

The station has already lost up to half its power as a result of last week's collision, which happened during a practice docking manoeuvre with an unmanned Progress supply craft.

Flight Commander Vasili Tsibilyev lost control of the craft, which made its approach too fast, smashing into the station's Spektr research module and damaging solar panels. The crew managed to seal off the module.

Viktor Blagov, deputy head of the Korolyov control centre, said the latest breakdown did not pose any serious problems. "It is a question of carrying out repairs to one of the three gyroscopes. We are confident that we will be able to deal with it by the end of the day," he said.

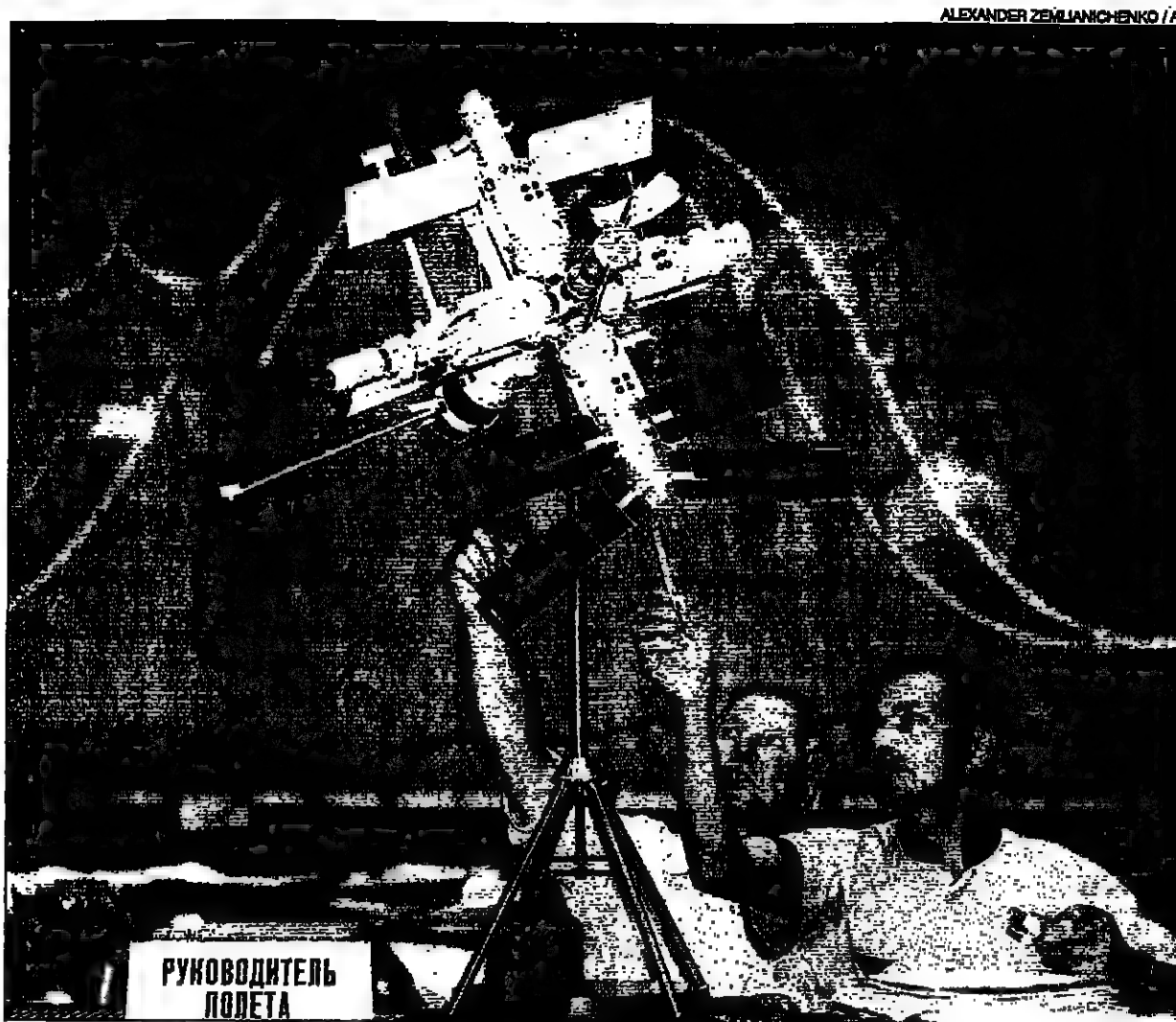
The mishap will nonetheless add to the doubts being expressed in the United States about its continued support

for the Mir programme. NASA is putting \$475 million (£284 million) annually into the programme.

After last week's collision there were calls from Congress to review safety on board the station before putting more American lives in jeopardy. And while NASA has reaffirmed its intention to continue its participation, the latest problem will add to the pressure for a reappraisal.

On Saturday, a Progress cargo craft is due to blast off from the main Russian launch station at Baikonur in Kazakhstan, carrying supplies and equipment needed to carry out repairs. It will take two days to reach Mir.

While no official explanation has been offered for last week's collision, the Russian newspaper Segodnya reported yesterday that it was due to human error and an overloaded cargo craft.



Against the background of a map showing the Mir's path, Russian flight controllers at the mission control centre near Moscow yesterday check a mock-up of the space station for possible clues to the latest accident

Rickety machine of a lost empire

From Richard Beeston in Moscow

WHEN Leonid Kizim first set eyes on the Mir space station orbiting above the globe, he likened the pride of the Soviet space programme to "a huge white seagull hovering above the Earth".

Certainly when it was launched in 1986, Mir was in a class of its own, and after NASA's disaster with the explosion of the Challenger shuttle the Soviet Union appeared poised again to pioneer manned space flights.

Eleven years and an empire later, the Russian space programme is one of the most evocative symbols of the country's decline as a world power, along with the collapse of communism and the loss of military superpower status.

When Michael Foale, the British-born US astronaut, who was nearly evacuated last week after a collision between Mir and a cargo vessel, began his mission on a craft that is falling apart, he compared his new home to "going camping in a rusty car".

Excavated bones are linked to Guevara



Guevara: killed in 1967 by Bolivian troops

CUBAN, Bolivian and Argentine anthropologists, searching for the remains of Ernesto "Che" Guevara in the jungle-covered foothills of the Bolivian Andes, have found bones which they say "very probably" belonged to the legendary revolutionary (Gabriella Gamini writes).

"We are 90 per cent sure that Che Guevara's bones are among the six skeletons we found buried in a pit under a military landing strip on the edge of the Andes," said Jorge Gonzalez, a Cuban anthropologist who conducted the excavations near the town of Vallegrande, in southeastern Bolivia.

His team found half a dozen

skeletons, and among them bones which are a slight red colour, indicating traces of formaldehyde, making experts think they could belong to the bearded revolutionary, who was captured and killed by Bolivian troops in 1967.

Guevara's body was kept in a hospital for more than 36 hours, and the anthropologists therefore believe that it must have been preserved in formaldehyde.

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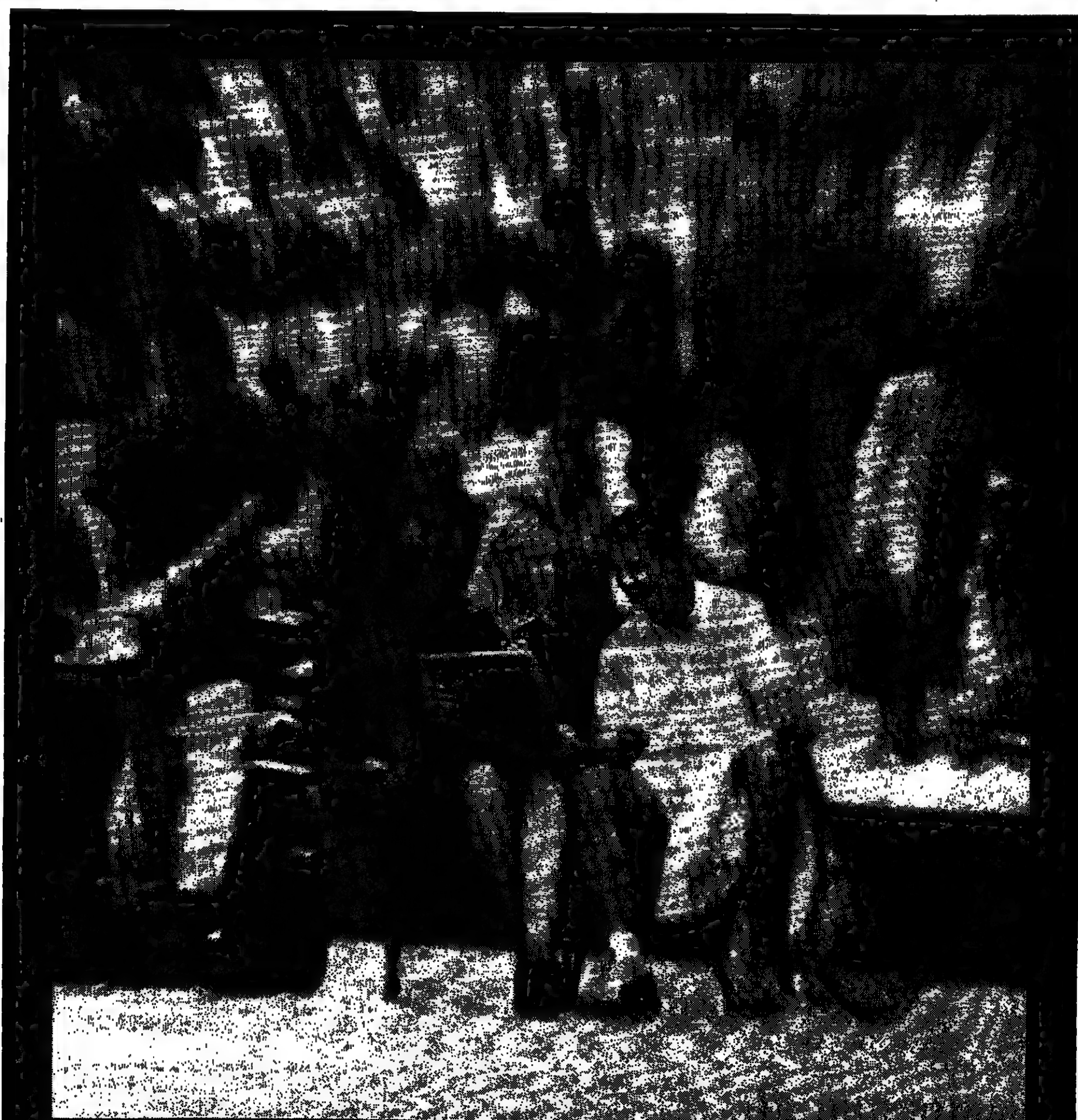
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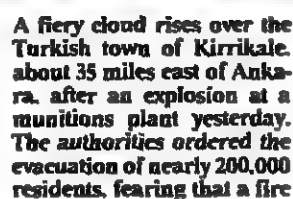
مكتبة الأمل

FROM RICHARD CLEROUX IN OTTAWA

The report, *Dishonoured*

Art Eggleton, the Defence Minister, denounced the findings. He said that the commission had "gone too far" and had failed to prove its case that senior officers lied.

The weekly magazine *Panorama* last month shocked Italy with photographs allegedly showing peacekeeping paratroops sexually abusing a Somali woman and attaching electrodes to a Somali man. Those incidents are still being investigated, together with more than 30 alleged cases of torture and rape.

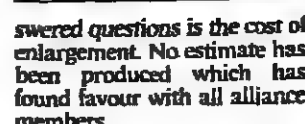


in the plant could spread to the main air force arsenal in the area. A civilian was killed and scores of soldiers

and policemen were injured. The Anatolia news agency said there were reports of looting in the town as the evacuation continued. Government ministers visited Kirikkale and declared it a disaster area. (AFP)

BY MICHAEL EVANS
REFERENCE CORRESPONDENT

One of the main unan-



area for the Europeans, particularly the Germans, who do not want at this stage to be talking about increasing defence budgets when they are trying to balance the books to meet the European Union's monetary union criteria. They also insist there is no likelihood of any military aggression in Europe, so it is irrelevant, they say, to include this scenario in estimating the cost of enlarging Nato.

The US Congressional Budget Office did produce a more global figure for the total cost of Nato expansion and came up with \$20 billion to \$125 billion over 15 years, depending on the number of new members. The Pentagon's cost estimate is \$27 billion to \$35 billion over 13 years. One of the main reasons why America is so set against more than three countries joining in the first wave — and the White House has underlined this position this week — is the cost.

Britain has now, in effect, also come out in favour of restricting the first phase to Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary.

With the Americans refusing to contemplate a fourth or fifth candidate, there is no hope of the Western alliance reaching a consensus that would mean Romania and Slovenia also joining in the first wave.

The decisions on the next phases of enlargement will have to be addressed with more intellectual rigour than was applied when the idea of expansion first emerged in the late autumn of 1993.

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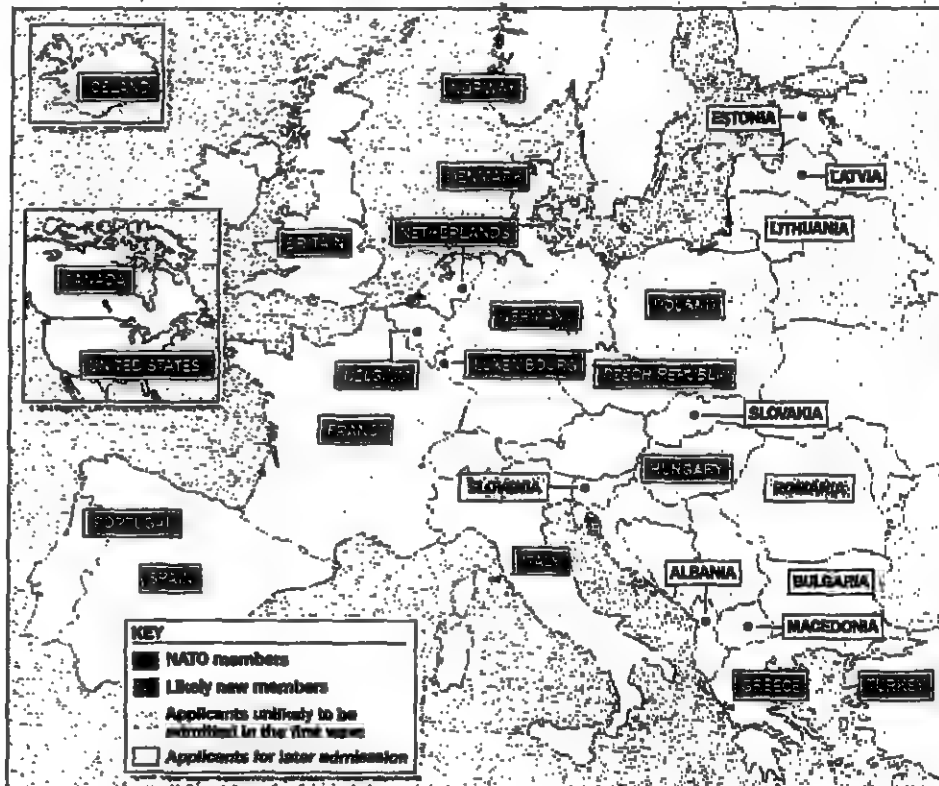
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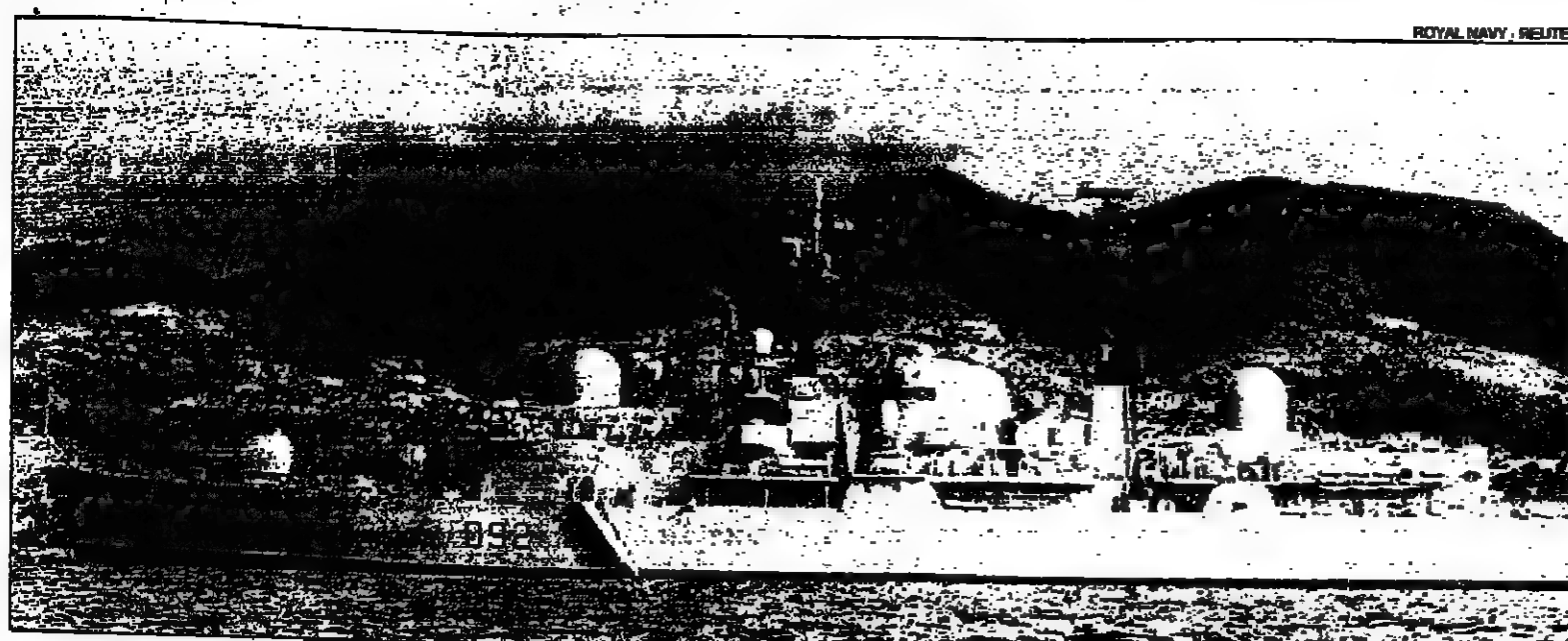


Dolphin

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هكذا من الاميل

1945



HMS Liverpool at anchor off Montserrat as the Soufrière Hills volcano continues to throw ash and debris into the air, destroying homes

Hundreds flee dying island

FROM TOM RHODES IN MONTSERRAT

THE queue for the single ferry from Montserrat now stretches far along the emergency jetty at Little Bay every morning. It is the most tangible sign that the spewing volcano which overshadows this tiny British colony has succeeded where past hurricanes, floods and pestilence have failed.

Indomitable to the last and

deeply committed to their island paradise, many Montserratians have decided that the historical romance with their mountain has finally soured. They see little hope of reconciliation and 70 islanders have been departing daily for other parts of the Caribbean and for Britain. For the first time yesterday, the ferry made

two trips, catering for more than 100 people no longer able to tolerate the slow but certain disintegration of island life.

Dormant for centuries, Chances Peak in the Soufrière Hills awoke two years ago, spraying hot ash and lava across small sections of the island. Within the space of 10 months, however, Plymouth, the capital, has been evacuated, farms and businesses have been swamped, and two thirds of the infrastructure, the port and the airport have been lost.

Last week, as many as 23 people died in terrifying pyroclastic flows as the mountain vented its spleen. Large areas have been transformed into a barren, ash-covered wasteland worthy of Malcolm Lowry — the author of *Under the Volcano*. Even in the "safe" northern section there has

been a gradual but marked decline. Evacuated families are often divided between separate shelters. There is no privacy. Rum, beer and casual sex have become the most common antidotes to lack of employment and a constant fear that soon the blackened crater will engulf the whole island in a vast eruption.

Carol Tuin, a psychologist at the island's hospital, has been treating various forms of depression among an increasing number of islanders. "We have had this strange romance with the volcano but now that people have died it's as if a close friend has turned on us," she said.

"People are blaming themselves, they are blaming the British and the local government. But the most prevalent emotion is the fear that we are all going to have to leave a

place we all love so much." And yet there is still the sense that life must go on. A thin veneer of normality remains in the north where, apart from thick deposits of ash, the volcano has failed to disturb a regular routine.

The weekly barbecue at the Vue Pointe, the island's single hotel, attracted its traditional clientele. Frank Savage, the British Governor, was at one table while Bertrand Osborne, the Chief Minister, held court at another. Only the group of scientists, animal rights activists and journalists dotted about the room offered a hint that this was not colonial life as it had always been.

Neil Johnstone, a Scotland Yard chief inspector seconded to Montserrat as a liaison officer, sat alone at the bar deep in thought. "We're just watching and waiting and it seems like the island is dying around us," he said.

The British Government, under increasing pressure to resolve the crisis, has been criticised for playing a waiting game in advance of an expected mass evacuation of the island. Local opposition leaders have demanded that Whitehall pay for assisted passages to Britain.

In fact the British contingent on the ground is making every effort to alleviate increasingly difficult conditions. The crew of HMS Liverpool has built emergency kitchens, showers and storage units. But they, too, are frustrated. "We don't seem to be doing much in the way of disaster relief," said one rating.

Britain moves to ease immigration curbs

London: The Foreign Office yesterday held urgent discussions with a group of MPs and Montserrat representatives on what further help could be given to those islanders fleeing to Britain (Michael Binyon, Diplomatic Editor, writes).

The Government is likely to relax remaining restrictions on entry into Britain, and is lobbying Washington to allow Montserrat residents with relations in America free entry into the United States.

When the volcano awoke two years ago, the Conservative Government announced that any islander with friends or relatives in Britain would be allowed to come here provided they could pay their own fare and find accommodation.

They will be allowed to stay for two years, can legally seek work and will be entitled to income support, housing benefit and schooling. The Government is now re-examining regulations in light of the increased danger.

Cancer link denied

Washington: An American study into a modern-day health scare has concluded that children who live near high-voltage power lines do not appear to have a greater risk of developing cancer (Ian Brodie writes).

The researchers said yesterday their work was the strongest indication yet that parental concern was groundless. But two other forth-

coming studies, one by Oxford University, could help to settle the issue for good.

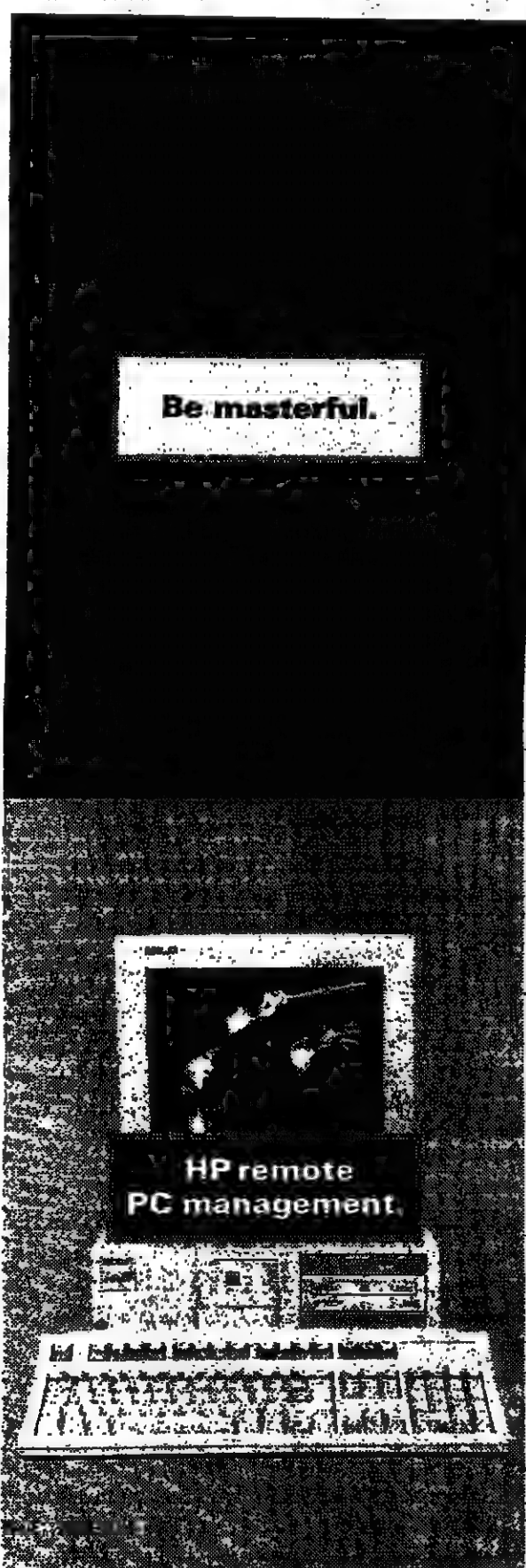
Fears about exposure to electromagnetic fields surrounding power lines were first raised in the 1970s, with the discovery in Colorado that a cluster of children with leukaemia lived close to electricity pylons. Since then, scores of studies have produced conflicting results.

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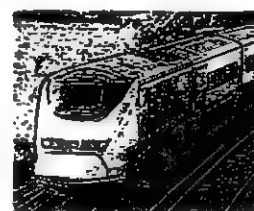


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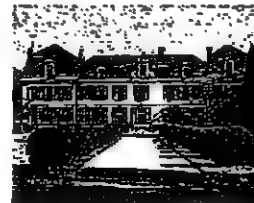
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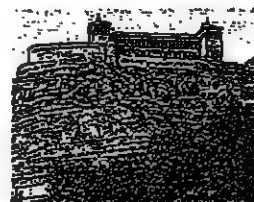
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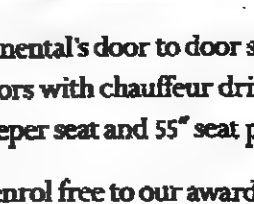
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Pressure on Tung to curb property boom

FROM DAVID WATTS
IN HONG KONG

TUNG CHEE-HWA, the Chief Executive of Hong Kong, is facing a dilemma only days into his term of office: what to do about skyrocketing property prices, which are up 30 per cent this year and climbing.

Late last year a luxurious property on The Peak on Hong Kong Island set a record, selling for \$117.28 million (£60.7 million). Prices like that for top-of-the-range properties are pulling the rest of the market along with them.

Wealth and land in Hong Kong are synonymous and the values on the stock market reflect the ever-increasing price of land. But the run-up to the handover has seen the property market turned into something like a casino. So fast are property prices rising that it is estimated that a middle-class Chinese family with both parents working and two children will need 90 per cent of its disposable income to pay the £200,000 mortgage on a 500 sq ft flat.

For Hong Kong this is the most sensitive public issue as its people are rapidly priced out of living space. And with a new administration in place that is, ostensibly, better able to relate to the people of the former colony the pressure is mounting on the Chief Executive to take action. Though there is a vast public housing programme for the less-well-off on the free market, the Government holds the key since it owns most of the land. Therein lies Mr Tung's dilemma. If he responds by releasing more land onto the market to reduce prices, he will damage many of his business friends and bring stock prices cascading down. These fears are exacerbated by the knowledge that the market is in the stratosphere: the stocks of some mainland Chinese-backed firms have risen more than 1,000 per cent in the past six months — and the joyride could be about to end anyway.

The slightest hint from Mr Tung, at a press conference on Wednesday, that he might ease the situation caused a fall on the stock market yesterday.

John Strickland, the chairman of the Hong Kong Shanghai Bank, has warned Mr Tung that he will bring the market down if he moves on land supply. "If you bring the stock market down, everybody feels poorer and stops spending, and before you know where you are you have got a recession on your hands," he said. That is the last thing that Mr Tung wants.



Georgette Marre and her dog are keeping an eye on the house that will be the retreat of Chris Patten and family after the rigours of his governorship in Hong Kong.

Where Patten joins the gîte set

Ben Macintyre in St Martin-Laguépie finds a tranquil welcome awaits the man who has left Hong Kong's hurly-burly.
Photographs by Simon Walker

A MAN seeking tranquillity, having presided over one of the more profound political changes of the 20th century, could not find a more apt place to reflect on the recent past and his future than St Martin-Laguépie.

Chris Patten, the last Governor of Britain's last substantial colony, will arrive soon in this hamlet deep in the French countryside north of Albi.

In the converted farmhouse overlooking the Viar Valley that he purchased two years ago, he plans to spend five months writing a book on the Far East, marshalling his thoughts and, perhaps, planning his next move.

St Martin-Laguépie, seemingly unchanged for centuries and surrounded by lush farmland and rural silence, could hardly be further removed from the frantic, cosmopolitan hubbub of Hong Kong. From the vast colonial splendours of the Governor's mansion, Mr Patten will move to this six-bedroomed, rose-covered hideaway, a building far smaller, older and prettier.

He left Hong Kong amid a last emotional outpouring of colonial pomp. A different, but hardly less enthusiastic, reception awaits him here: caretaker Thérèse Marre, her mother-in-law, Georgette, and their dog.

The lump in Mr Patten's throat as he, and Britain, quit Hong Kong, was only too evident: the simplicity of St

Martin-Laguépie may well induce another. "On the television they said he did very well," remarked Thérèse Marre, standing proudly before the property's newly installed oak gates. This is a good place to reflect," she added, although her mind was on more practical matters. "When do the dogs arrive?"

The former Governor's relinquished official Rolls-Royce would be hard put to navigate the steep and twisting road leading up to his retreat, but the place is not short of creature comforts: a new tennis court and a swimming pool surrounded by fruit trees. A well-tended vegetable patch will help to ensure that Mr Patten's legendary appetite does not suffer.

No pyrotechnics will greet him, but not a soul is unaware of his impending arrival. Locals in the village café down the hill were quietly proprietorial on the subject of their new neighbour. "Monsieur Le Gouverneur will be here shortly. He is still on the boat," one announced as if, at any moment, the Royal Yacht Britannia might come steaming up the Aveyron river into

town. Like so much of southern France, St Martin-Laguépie has a substantial, and growing, British population. "We have many English here," said Mme Marre, observing the Patten's home had been owned for 20 years previously by a British couple. Meanwhile, speculation over his future will continue to swirl in the distant corridors of Westminster: a seat in the Lords? By-election candidate in a safe Tory constituency? A United Nations-style job?

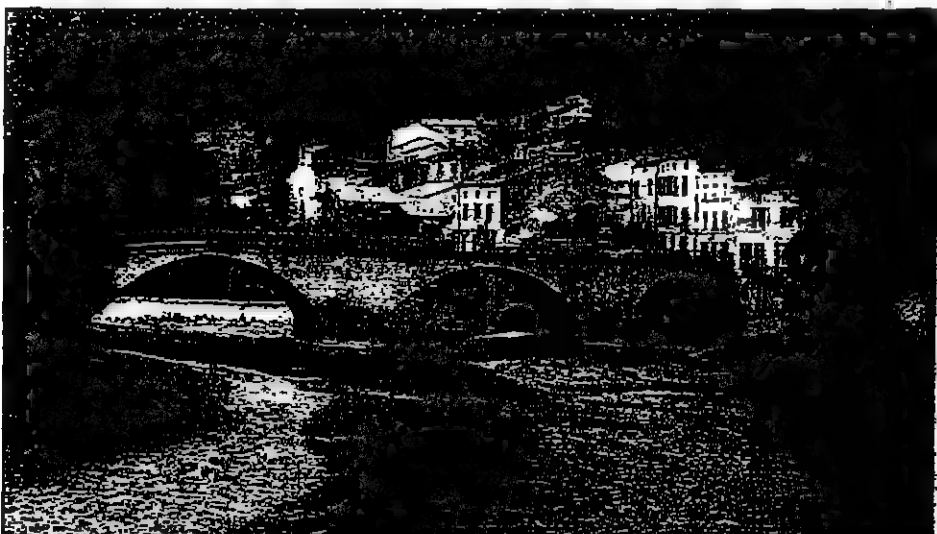
The British retreat from Hong Kong was ripe, perhaps over-ripe with symbolism. Should he seek symbolic inspiration, Mr Patten need look no further than the next hill.

There, dominating the skyline, stands a vast medieval château, seat of the ancient dukes of Laguépie, a hollow ruin since the French Revolution. Power and prestige, he may ponder, are but fleeting here, too. On the other hand, like the "scaffolding" of British democracy to which Mr Patten referred in his final farewell to Hong Kong, the grand structure is still there.

Photograph, page 24



The six-bedroomed farmhouse has a new tennis court and a swimming pool.



St Martin-Laguépie, the hamlet that lies less than a mile from the Patten's home.

USAF career in peril because of love

FROM IAN BRIDGES
IN WASHINGTON

A MARRIED couple face the ordeal of a court martial for falling in love in yet another fiasco for the US Air Force.

Still reeling from the Kelly Flinn case, the air force has decided that a trial carrying a potential prison sentence of 14 years is warranted against Second Lieutenant William Kite Jr.

His crimes were "fraternising" with Rhonda Kutzer, now a civilian, when she was an enlisted airwoman and then denying the relationship to senior officers, justifiably fearing it could wreck his career.

The couple, who are expecting their first child in two months, believed fate had brought them together on discovering that they were born on the same day 27 years ago. Lieutenant Kite was a security supervisor at a nuclear bomber base in Missouri where she was on police duties, though not in his direct chain of command. She has since left the air force.

Yesterday *The New York Times* reported that Sheila Widnall, the Secretary of the US Air Force, was leaning towards giving Lieutenant Kite a general, but not honourable, discharge — which would deny him veterans' benefits.

The same treatment was meted out to Lieutenant Flinn, the first woman B52 pilot, who had faced a court martial for adultery and lying about it.

Lieutenant Kite was reportedly unwilling to accept the treatment and is citing many examples of officers who were spared any serious penalty for fraternisation.

His lawyer, seeking dismissal of the charges, has written to Mrs Widnall about 461 couples in the air force where an officer married an enlisted person. They must have fraternised unless they all married total strangers, the lawyer argues.

Brigadier-General Terry Schwallier, who was in charge of security at the Saudi Arabian base where 19 Americans were killed by a massive lorry bomb, will not face a court martial. It was announced by the air force yesterday.

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Royalist march sparks battle on Tirana streets

FROM TOM WALKER IN TIRANA

WITH a grenade and a pistol attached to his belt, Leka Zog, in a camouflage-green military uniform and blue beret, led his highlanders down the Boulevard of Martyrs. "Down with Communists," they chanted. "We want a king."

The pretender to the Albanian throne marched his people on, past the marble pyramid of Enver Hoxha, the late Communist despot, past the ice cream vans and international hotels, and on towards the presidential palace.

Ahead his "army", some of them in riot helmets, others with a more Mad Max air, waved their Kalashnikovs to clear motorists and lingering pedestrians. But then the procession veered left — its target not President Berisha, but the Central Election Commission.

"You stole our votes," screamed the monarchists.

Within minutes, a post-election demonstration in the balmy sunshine had been transformed into a battle zone: heavy machineguns opened up, grenades detonated, windows smashed. A crowd swollen to around a thousand fled in terror, crashing through bushes and leaping walls. One man was killed and at least

five were injured. A trail of blood lay down the path back to the boulevard.

The monarchists had surged towards the election commission doors, but were pushed back by Leka Zog's own bodyguard. A single shot rang out, and the guilty gunman was pulled out. But then the battle proper began.

The most likely culprits were the blue-uniformed special police unit, snipers perched menacingly around the perimeter wall of the national stadium that faces the election commission. Theirs was the only heavy machinegun in the area, as were the rocket propelled grenades they detonated on the football pitch.

The recriminations were fast and furious. Abedin Mulosmanaj, Leka Zog's spokesman and "minister to the royal court of Albania", blamed Fatos Nano and his Socialist, who he claimed control the special police units. "Fatos Nano is nothing to do with Albanian blood," he stormed. "His name is not worth a penny."

Another theory is that gunmen loyal to President Berisha had infiltrated the monarchists and precipitated the shooting. Leka Zog likes to portray himself as a source of stability, above the bickering of mere politicians. But the Sandhurst-trained giant showed yesterday that his outdated obsession with guns just adds another lethal element to the Albanian political cocktail. "He wanted to go as a soldier for his people," explained Mr Mulosmanaj.

Last Sunday's referendum on restoring the Albanian monarchy has been grossly manipulated by the Socialists, according to the Zog camp, which left them no alternative but to march on the Central Election Commission. Leka Zog's campaign slogan of "Peace, brotherhood and unity", however, bore little relation to the hot-blooded rabble-rousing of his rally in Skenderbeg Square that preceded yesterday's carnage.

Those who are Albanians, poor Albanians, pick your arms, take your arms and fight for Albania. Death or victory," the crowd sang, giving the cumbersome Zogist salute of a short chop to the abdomen with one arm and thumb and forefinger aloft with the other. The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) must hang its head in shame. It seems extraordinary that the monitors of last Sunday's parallel general election and referendum can have already left town, with the glib assertion that the process had been

"adequate and acceptable". Days later, there is still no election result and the monarchists are justifiably angry at the OSCE's complete lack of interest in the referendum. The Interior Minister has fled, presumably for his own safety, and the victorious Socialists, defeated Democrats and snubbed monarchists have dissolved into warring factions. President Berisha's Democrats have a semi-loyal presidential guard, Mr Nano has the special police units and Leka Zog has his own private army, trained with the proceeds of his arms dealing years in Spain and South Africa. It does not help that loyalists to Leka's father, King Zog, fought partisans led by Mr Nano's father during the war. "The Communists are blocking roads but they have no power to stop you coming into Tirana. Victory is ours," Mr Mulosmanaj had screamed to the saluting crowd. It could have been the 1940s; the decades merge as one in Europe's most isolated country.



Leka Zog, surrounded by bodyguards, on the march in Tirana yesterday. His protest parade erupted in shooting and one man was killed

Letters, page 21

Nato accused of hunt for Karadzic

BY MICHAEL BUNYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

AS PART of the intensifying power struggle in the Bosnian Serb leadership, Serbian Serb television yesterday said British and American Nato forces had been given new instructions to seek and arrest on sight Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, the former leaders accused of war crimes.

Although the Ministry of Defence in London denied the report, the broadcast indicated increasing desperation by Bosnian Serb hardliners. British officials said that instructions to the Nato forces in Bosnia had not changed: any indicted war criminal is to be arrested if peacekeeping

troops come across them on patrol. No special effort is to be made to seek them out.

The TV report suggested a more pro-active stance had been agreed by Biljana Plavsic, the Bosnian Serb president, and Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, at their meeting last month. British officials said the report might be an attempt to discredit Mrs Plavsic in her power struggle with Dr Karadzic and General Mladic. Yesterday she ordered immediate dissolution of the Bosnian Serb parliament to prevent hardliners using their majority to vote for her dismissal.



Wanted: Radovan Karadzic, left, and Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb leaders indicted for war crimes

German police 'in racist beatings'

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMAN police were accused of brutally manhandling and bullying foreigners in a report by Amnesty International released yesterday. But German authorities denied there was any kind of regular pattern of abuse by the police.

The London-based human rights organisation has catalogued at least 40 cases of foreigners being beaten up or manhandled. The evidence, says Amnesty, suggests a "clear pattern of abuse". Investigations into complaints were often one-sided or slipshod. "Many of the officers allegedly responsible have therefore escaped prosecution... and none of the foreign or ethnic minority complainants has been compensated for the injuries". Amnesty cites the example of Mustafa

K, a Turk with German citizenship living in Berlin. Last summer police demanded entry to his flat at midnight, saying his son had defaced a street advertisement with a felt-tip pen. They started to search the flat — without a warrant — and when Mr K protested he was thrown to the floor and beaten with a torch and fists, says Amnesty. He was then taken to the police station and beaten again in the van. When he was eventually freed, he went to hospital, where doctors confirmed heavy bruising to face, ribs and shoulders.

When Mr K lodged a formal complaint, the Berlin police opened their own case against him, claiming he had attacked four police officers with his door key. It was therefore necessary, they said, to strike him and immobilise him.

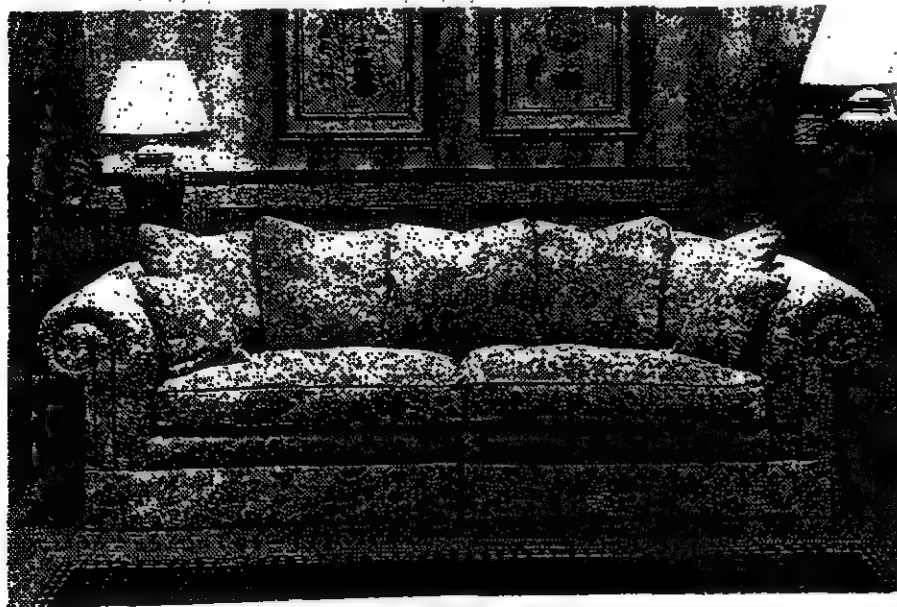
Amnesty says that Mr K never received a fair hearing — witnesses were not

heard — and his case was dropped. "As in previous years, the vast majority of the victims are foreign nationals including asylum-seekers or members of ethnic minorities. In many instances the alleged ill treatment appears to have been racially motivated," said Amnesty.

The accusations prompted some lobbyists within the German police to call for urgent reforms. "The police are not xenophobic," said Manfred Kanther, the Interior Minister, in a statement backed by other regional ministers and police spokesmen. But the "Association of Critical Police Officers" called for an independent control commission and anti-racism training.

A survey published in *Stern* magazine yesterday showed that 80 per cent of Germans believe the state to be excessively tolerant, and 54 per cent said German courts were too soft.

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Aitken — and the price of friendship

The affair Aitken is aired in *The Spectator* again today, refuelling the debate on public men and their private friendships. It constantly bedevils the waspish coterie who write for that august and ancient journal. All journalists end up mixing socially with the public figures they write about. We know far more about their private lives, misdemeanours and secret sorrows than they will ever see exposed in print. So all journalists make compromises — what we do print is quite bad enough — but in *The Spectator* they tie themselves in knots about it, and write little billets-doux to one another.

Last week, under the banner *Lies, Truth and Aitken*, the magazine carried two opposing reactions: Paul Johnson in passionate defence of Aitken, Sir Peregrine Worsthorne pontificating for the prosecution. Both call Jonathan Aitken their old friend. Johnson saw *The Guardian's* pursuit of Aitken as motivated by malice and envy: "Most journalists lead frustrated lives... Jonathan Aitken was the cynosure of this media envy." In full cry, he identified journalists as "ugly, stunted — or if tall, uncouth" people who squander their money on drink and return only late and reluctantly to their "bedraggled wives and unwelcoming homes". The spectacle of Jonathan, handsome, cultured, rich and irresistible to women, drove them to dip their pens in poison to write gleeful, rancorous stories of his downfall.

Sir Peregrine, five pages later, rounded on Aitken for his lifelong philandering — repeating tales about his affair with Antonia Fraser — which made deceit a way of life. And because the lies necessary for serial adultery are generally overlooked, and even admired, said Worsthorne, "in some ways a lifetime of adulterous deceit... must make lying to a judge, by comparison, seem rather small beer".

This week both return to the fray. Johnson reiterates his devotion to Aitken and extends his animus to all editors who "corrupted by power, have forgotten why newspapers exist and who use them to destroy people". Who, he asks, paid for *The Guardian's* Editor to fly to Hong Kong last week, "gorging and sluicing and toasting the surrender of six million free people to the Peking tyranny"? A monumental piece of Johnsonian invective, ending in a Churchillian call to arms.

Over on Perry's page, we find him troubled to be so much at issue with his old friend Paul "with whom I have been thick for 40 years". At first he thought Paul must be joking in what he said about

Valerie Grove on how loyalty has divided two old friends

their mutual old friend Jonathan. Now he is worried that Paul might drop him on the ground of his betrayal. "In other words Paul, unlike PW, may have done the loyal and honourable thing." But was it to the credit or discredit of Anthony Blunt's friends that some of them stood by him? He hopes that his disagreement with Paul will be not be long-lasting.

Meanwhile on another page, Simon Blow languidly excuses all dishonesty on Aitken's part because chicanery is second nature to the privileged classes. "Public

Forty years ago Paul Johnson was proposing the abolition of the monarchy, the House of Lords and Oxbidge, views utterly at odds with those he holds today. As a scrupulously fair Charles Nevin got Johnson to explain in *The Guardian* recently, Johnson only writes whatever he sincerely thinks at the time, as he has for 45 years, and even if he later admits that what he said was utterly silly, he stands by his right to say it. Similarly Perry, who recently wrote that he never knew quite what he thought about anything until he had written about it: that is the journalist's art in a nutshell.

So Worsthorne's "No more than an egg can be bad in parts can a man be a liar and a deceiver in his private life and scrupulously honest and trustworthy in his public life", which sounds like the axiom of a man of paper infallibility in his own private life, are actually the words of the moment written for public consumption about someone whose hand he might very well shake again one day. As Perry said when I rang him yesterday, there are degrees of deceit, and degrees of friendship. Paul and Perry's friendship is a real one: Aitken, whose hospitality both have enjoyed, is not in the same category, and "journalists are in a tricky area, writing about colleagues and acquaintances. The crux of the matter is that Paul thinks Jonathan was unjustly accused. The idea that Jonathan is a cavalier hero is a misunderstanding. Perjury is a major offence, not a peccadillo."

Claus von Bülow puts his ear in, with a letter to *The Spectator* wondering what Sir Perry's "honourable and invariably truthful" father-in-law, Lord Lambton, would make of Perry's thesis that adultery must lead to mendacity in public life? Fair point, says Worsthorne. He adds: "There are exceptions to every rule, as Claus von Bülow ought to know."

Like the libel action by Andrew Neil against Worsthorne a few years ago, these affairs involving moralising and metaphorical duelling are painful for the protagonists but vastly enjoyable for us.

Aitken, wherever he is, will be watching it all, with that familiar dimpled half-smile playing about his lips. Ever since I turned up at his Cambridge hotel 30 years ago to interview him for *Varsity* and found him asleep in bed — he suavely ordered breakfast for two, telling room service "I have a guest" — I have regarded Jonathan Aitken as the epitome of cool. His great-uncle Beaverbrook told him: "Your father is a good man, but a dull one. You must make mischief." He took the advice to heart.



Friends for 40 years: Paul Johnson and Peregrine Worsthorne

school and upper-class landed backgrounds are such a breeding ground for envy and financial dissatisfaction that I am amazed that so many manage to repress their criminal side," he breezes, citing Lord Brocket, Darius Guppy, Sir Jock Delves-Broughton and other "larger-than-life" characters with expensive needs.

It is another example of *The Spectator's* indulgence of the iconoclastic. I don't think Worsthorne should worry. Any week, Paul or Perry can be relied upon to defend a miscreant or attack a popular cause. There is never any telling which way either will turn. Their sentiments, couched in self-righteous terms, often intolerant and intemperate, are as readable as they are unpredictable. All such commentators — A.N. Wilson, Auberon Waugh, Brian Sewell et al — play this game: consistency is anathema. The reader loses track of which columnist is suddenly carrying a torch for Fergie, which finds Diana persona non grata — or vice versa.

Starting on Monday

My years of torment with Norman Mailer

For the great American novelist's first wife, life with Norman Mailer began with a night of love, and ended with a knife in the ribs. Next week, in extracts from her new book, *The Last Party*, published exclusively in *The Times*, Adele Mailer tells her extraordinary story



JEFFREY HORNISTER



"Everyone sees him as a writer of genius, a giant, and he is one. But for me he's a monster. A perverse, dangerous monster"

'He had a dazzling mind — the ultimate aphrodisiac'

Adele Mailer puts down her fork and points carefully to the area beneath her left breast.

"That's where Norman stabbed me with a dirty penknife. He stabbed me in the back, too, all with a dirty three-inch penknife he'd found in the street. He was drunk, crazed, out of control." There is no pause for effect, no dramatic lingering, as she starts to eat again. The tables around us in the restaurant, however, have fallen silent.

Mrs Mailer wants the world to know exactly what happened when her ex-husband Norman Mailer stabbed her: "Everyone sees him as a writer of genius, a giant, and he is one. But for me he's a monster. A perverse, dangerous monster."

Her book about her life with him — *The Last Party* — is as much a cry for attention as an act of bitter revenge. "It took me five years to write and I'm now drained," she emphasises the word, before breaking into the alluring smile that once drove Mailer wild with lust.

"Look at those pictures in my book. I was beautiful. I was sexy. Norman couldn't keep his hands off me." She met Mailer in 1950, at a party on Manhattan's Upper East Side. He had just published *The Naked and the Dead*; she was a painter from a blue-collar Hispanic family who had been going out with another writer, Jack Kerouac. She and Mailer made love almost immediately "several times. I don't think he'd been laid for a long time and he had half a bottle of Scotch in him. I had multiple orgasms that night. I always did with Norman. Our sex was wonderful."

This is a 72-year-old woman speaking. And speaking out. "Norman nearly killed me. He

Norman Mailer's ex-wife tells Tunku Varadarajan of her violent marriage

20 years if I hadn't perjured myself." Mrs Mailer, it is true, saved her husband from jail in 1960 (he was given five years' probation for assault). "I did it for our two young children. I didn't do it for him."

What pushed her, after all these years, to tell her harsh story in public? "I had to. Everyone, everyone, saw the stabbing as Norman's tragedy. They still do. But it was my tragedy. Mine. And I want people to see it that way."

"I'll tell you something. The O. J. Simpson case came up while I was writing my book. And it stirred up a lot of rage in me. I was reliving things, the whole process of a celebrity being given preferential treatment. OJ got all the attention, while Nicole, his dead wife, was ignored. It was the same with me and Norman. I was ignored. My near-death was insignificant. Nothing."

She speaks with passion, and compassion. "We did love each other. You must see that. My book makes that clear. It's not a trashy 'he did this to me and then he did that to me' sort of book. I was just as screwed as he was. I drank. He drank. God, how we drank. But I wasn't an animal. He's a bit of an animal. A bit."

She tugs at my sleeve, and smiles again. "My book hasn't had a cathartic effect at all on me. No, those scars won't go away. It will have an effect on him though, because it's all about accountability. Norman is a terrible bully, and no one has made him account for his actions. I will."

Adele Mailer lived with the "monster" for 11 years, during which she claims she was

assaulted and cheated on. Why? She looks disconcerted by the question. Why, I ask, did you live for so long with a man like that? "It was exciting. I loved being Mrs Norman Mailer. He had a dazzling mind, and that's the ultimate aphrodisiac for me." But her tale gets darker. "Also, I had no money. Two small kids. And I was damaged... I was an alcoholic, and people who drink that much don't think in straight lines."

"I stayed with him. A woman would understand, even today's women, who are lucky, who can turn to people and organisations and groups like that. I couldn't. My father

adored Norman, and my parents would have had a fit if I'd made a fuss. You see, they were in the dark about my true condition. Norman was always on his best behaviour when we went to see them."

Mrs Mailer is a sad, gentle woman. But she is not without a sense of vengeance and the strength to make Norman suffer. You know, he has never said sorry to me in a meaningful way. He's very sadistic like that, and I'm only human. I want him to say sorry. He has prospered while I've just wasted away. He's been married six times. I never married again."

● *The Last Party*: Scenes from my life with Norman Mailer will be published by Blake Publishing on August 10 at £16.99

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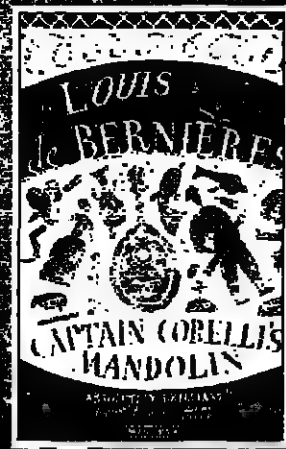
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Return to Cephalonia



Novelist Louis de Bernières makes a sentimental journey back to the Greek island that provided the setting for his bestselling novel, *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*



I was initially very reluctant when Peter Bevan, an independent filmmaker, approached me with the idea of making a documentary about *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*. A writer's fame is the pleasant sort, because no one ever recognises you, and exposure on television can mean the end of one's peace.

I had been on television in countries as various as Den-

mark, Canada, Greece, and the USA, but I had sworn never to go on British television; this was a resolution that was terribly easy to adhere to, since I had never been asked anyway.

When Peter said that the documentary would entail going to Cephalonia, and that there would be plenty of spare time, I fairly rapidly adjusted my principles, deciding that those who watch programmes

about books would probably be too sophisticated to be a nuisance, should they spot me in the Arndale Centre.

Peter said that he would like me to bring my mandolin, and so I put myself onto a crash refresher course, having given it up a year ago in order to have a craze for flute and clarinet. It was good to feel the strings under my fingers again, and rediscover what an excellent instrument it is. I

also discovered that a year's worth of not practising had perfected my tremolo, which I had been unable to do before.

I was very much afraid that going back would make me feel deeply sad, because I had previously gone there with Caroline, my former girlfriend. She had loved it as much as I did, and her memories are, I hope, just as sweet. It would feel strange, at the very least, to be there

without her. There were six of us on the expedition, however, and, as it turned out, we rapidly became such good friends that the twinges I felt were not as sharp as they would have been otherwise. Nostalgia that is sweetened by affection and gratitude is not so unbearable.

My first big surprise upon returning was the realisation that Cephalonia was a modern island. When I was writing the book, my imagination had transformed it back into what it was 60 years ago, with Venetian architecture, stony roads and peasants on donkeys.

I had almost completely forgotten the Cephalonia that I had actually visited, where people have mobile phones and e-mail numbers. I had to look very hard at the tinny olive trees, the occasional ruins, and the goats that perch idly upon vertical cliff-faces. In order to conjure up once again the past that I had reinvented in the novel.

I was helped by meeting various people who remembered the events with which I had dealt. I met a 90-year-old doctor who sang Puccini, remembered everything with absolute clarity, and used to be paid in chickens and aubergines, just as my Dr Iannis had been. He was an obstetrician, and he liked to scandalise his equally ancient wife by making remarks about knowing more women more intimately than anyone else on

heavenly thing about my return was the discovery that the Cephalonians are marvelously pleased with me. Cephalonia is next to Corfu. It is just as beautiful and interesting, and yet, because the German Royal Family never had a house there, and because it has had no equivalent of the Durrells, it has not enjoyed the same fame.

Cephalonians are offended by this injustice, and they feel vindicated by the sudden fame caused by Captain Corelli. Whereas many parts of Corfu have been wrecked by British yobs and yobesses getting drunk, shouting racist insults at the locals, fighting, vomiting, crashing mopeds, scoffing chips and quaffing litres of lukewarm brown sauce that is imaginatively considered to be beer, Cephalonia is still quiet and pleasant, and intends to remain so.

The Cephalonians, like all Greeks, believe that their par-

'I was very much afraid that going back would make me feel deeply sad'

ticular corner of Greece has the water that tastes the most like water, the purest light, the best wine, the best honey, the most beautiful women, and the wittiest men, and they are prepared to love anyone who loves their island as much as they do.

The wine shop gave me free wine, thus spoiling a shot of me paying for it. The baggage handler at the airport shook

my hand, and Minas, a café owner in Fiscardo, drove away his clients so that we could use his café for filming, refusing payment afterwards. Best of all, Spiros Galiatos, the president of the Hoteliers Association, and Nickos Kappatos, one of the most important hotel managers, came to see me.

Nickos said that he had read the book twice, once in Greek, and once in English, adding that one in five of his guests was reading the book on the beach. He and Spiros said that I could stay in their hotels any time I liked, for as long as I liked. I don't know who it was who said "Beware of Greeks, and those bearing gifts", but I say: "A pox and a plague on those who make up daft proverbs." England, farewell.

● Captain Corelli's Mandolin will be read on Book at Bedtime on Radio 4, starting on Monday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

NEWS REVIEW



BEVAN
Now that Peter Bevan is no longer governor of the Bank, he can speak his mind about Britain's economic policy and the country's people. In his new book, *The Bank of England*, he tells Jonathan Bevan what he really thinks.

BOOKS



THE BANK OF ENGLAND
The parallel lives of an innocent writer and the Bank of England. Jonathan Bevan's new book, *The Bank of England*, is a masterpiece of the genre.

CULTURE



HOMER'S ODYSSEY
The parallel lives of an innocent writer and the Bank of England. Jonathan Bevan's new book, *The Bank of England*, is a masterpiece of the genre.

Hanson's Bristol cream



Has bra model Sophie Anderton got what it takes to bag Britain's most eligible bachelor, multimillionaire Robert Hanson? See Style

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

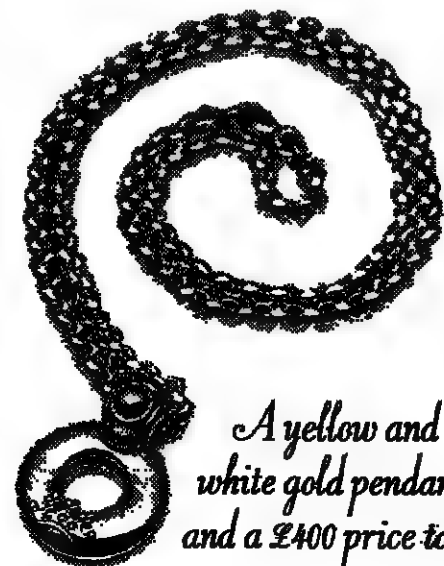
'The wine shop gave me free wine, thus spoiling a shot of me paying for it'

the island. I also came across Eleni Cosmetatou, curator of the historical museum, and another remarkable nonagenarian, who had provided me with the original reading list that was to provide the core of my research.

She is a formal and formidable lady, and when she congratulated me on the relative accuracy of my book, I felt as though I had received the benediction of whoever it is who tells God what to do. With gracious hyperbole, one of her assistants told me that 90 per cent of the museum's visitors were doing Captain Corelli tours.

Of course, the trouble with writing an historical novel is that after it is published, you get deluged by information that you really needed before rather than after. Sometimes you hear remarkable stories that you could have used, and sometimes people spot mistakes. *Tani pis*, the truly

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Reinventing the Protestant work ethic

Father Brown wants the nation to be one family, says John Lloyd

With that feline sense of the psychically appropriate which is its mark, the *Daily Mail* on Budget day ran a front-page picture of Gordon Brown dining in a Soho restaurant with Sarah Macaulay, who is said to be his girlfriend. The image of a Cabinet minister dining non-furtively with an attractive young woman — truly an innovation in government — underscored the Chancellor's single status and his detachment from the assumed mores of higher public life.

Mr Brown had his own image to stamp on the popular mind (his girlfriend is, after all, a public relations consultant) which was curiously complementary to the *Mail*'s one. He emerged from 11 Downing Street holding his new red box, made by four apprentices from the Rosyth dockyard which is in his constituency. The apprentices — two men and two women — emerged also and ranged themselves behind him.

This was created an ersatz family for the bachelor Chancellor: a symbolic family of youngsters, whose relationship to Mr Brown was expressed in the work they had done for him. It is a symbol of the larger relationship he wishes to see between the citizen and the nation, one of rights to be claimed for work and responsibilities to do it.

This relationship gives sense to a passage in his Budget speech which was revealingly inserted in a section devoted to childcare. "For too long the United Kingdom has been united only in name," he said. "From today, ours is a country where everyone has a contribution to make."

It is a remarkable phrase, especially for a Scot to utter. The kingdoms united in the United Kingdom were those of England and Scotland, as he perfectly well knows — but he has dared to redefine it as a kingdom whose cohesiveness depends not on the ancient union of the crowns and parliaments of two independent states, but on the new Labour belief that only through work of hand or brain can the individual fully enter into the civic state.

Mr Brown believes that the global economy enforces on all nations the imperative rapidly to re-educate their people. "The central purpose of this Budget," he declared, "is to ensure that Britain is equipped to rise to the challenge of the new and fast-changing global economy."

Conventional wisdom — almost a bromide, but he added in the next breath: "Not just a few of us. But everyone."

It is the "everyone" which makes the difference. If "everyone" is to be included, then the economy must be reshaped to admit the uneducated young, the single mothers, even the disabled, so that "the many, by their own efforts, [can] benefit from opportunities once open only to a few."

Among its other functions, the Budget was thus the first step towards the restructuring of the welfare state, which Mr

Brown has for long seen as one of his prime functions. He conceives of the Treasury as the headquarters of an industrial conglomerate, with subsidiaries quaintly titled the Departments of Education, Health, Social Security, Trade and Industry. He shares the view of his fellow countryman Adam Smith that the economy is an interrelated matrix of activities for which, to be sure, the self-interest of the market actors is the main fuel, but whose engine requires service, repair and overhaul by the political powers.

As the 19th and much of the 20th centuries were the age of capital, Mr Brown believes that the late 20th and 21st centuries are the age of labour, an age in which there is, for every country, "only one truly national resource, the talent and the potential of its workforce". An irony, now that Labour has ceased to be a socialist party demanding the maximum for the workers? No: for Mr Brown has redefined socialism's pursuit of equality to mean as much equality as possible in the pursuit of work.

This means the end of the Worker as the demander of rights, represented by trade unions with an infinite agenda of reforms, and the entrance of the Citizen, whose right and duty is to work.

The social democratic state will no longer cushion the Worker from the effects of illness, injury and age, but fit the Citizen to take care of himself. Welfare to Work is also a passage from state provision to self-provision. The provider state is to be replaced by the heuristic state.

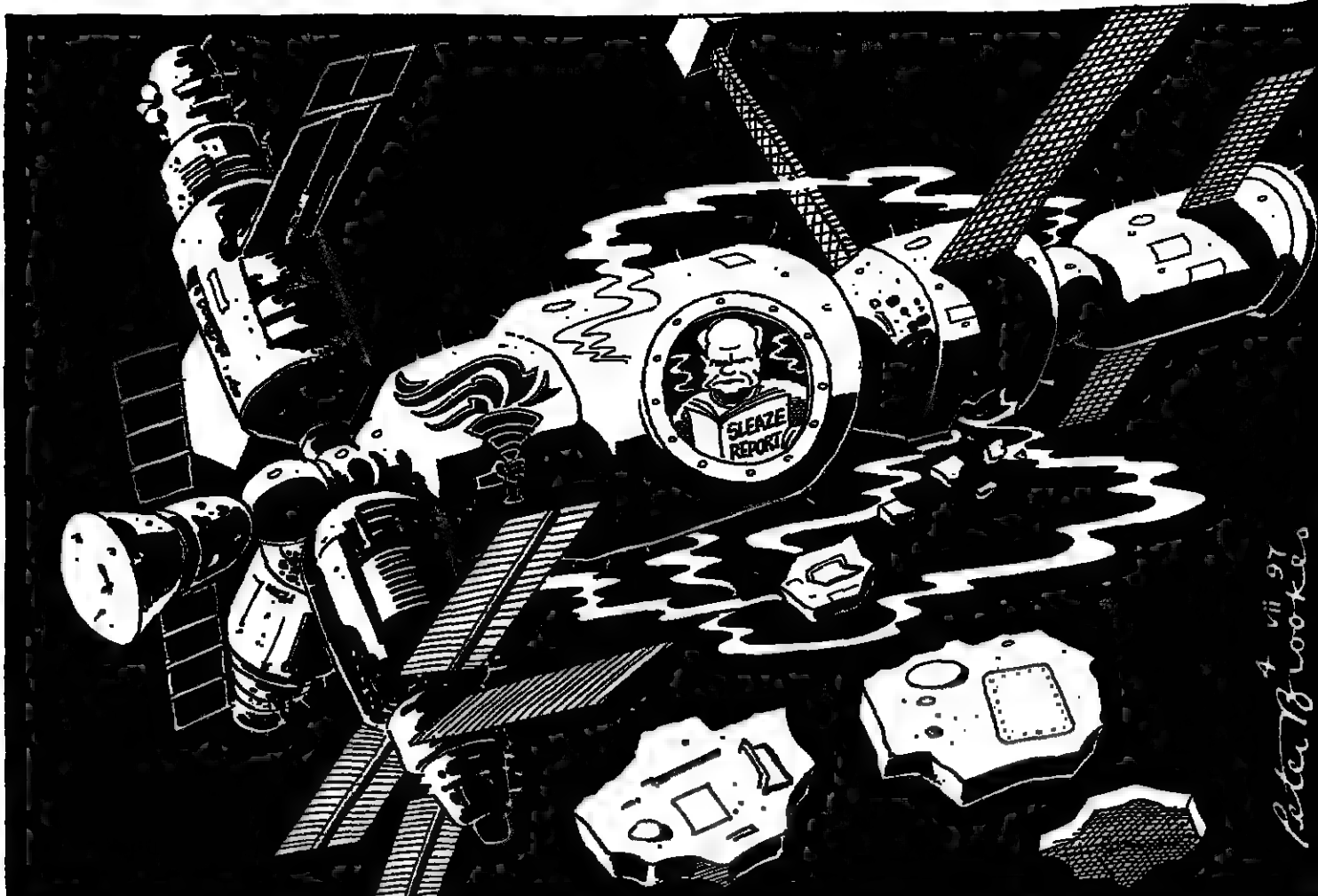
In Opposition, ideas were hugely important for Mr Brown: he consumed them in great gulps, scouring through contemporary philosophers, sociologists, management strategists and economists for a digest of how the world was seen to work. The big idea he distilled from them is that modern civilisation is acquired and sustained by work: that a real, as opposed to a nominal, inclusion in society is impossible without it. Ideas do matter in politics, certainly when a new kind of politics is being forged, as Labour is now attempting to do.

Mr Brown proposed in his Budget a new definition of the national "family" — one whose virtues he cast in terms which would once have tripped from Margaret Thatcher's speech-writer's laptops: "Our creativity, our adaptability, our belief in hard work and self-improvement, the very qualities that made Britain lead the world in the 18th and 19th centuries..."

As in the best families, benefits are given on the assumption that there is a response manifest in the performance of duties.

This is the beguiling vision of Father Brown. Can it be made flesh? If it is not, he will judge himself to have failed in his paternal duties.

John Lloyd is associate editor of the *New Statesman*.



"Mayday... Mayday... we've lost power, are cracking up, no longer aligned with The Sun, and the stench in here is quite awful..."

Certainty versus caprice

Anyone who looks after small children will have noticed how very early in a child's life comes a desire to know what the rules are. With this comes a startling capacity for distress when an undertaking is reneged upon.

"But Mummy, you said I could stay up if I was good in the car..." — a child's fury when it gives that an undertaking solemnly given has been broken is palpable.

"But Mummy, you let him stay up if he was good..." — equally surprising is the child's sophisticated resentment, almost before it has learnt to speak, when rules are not applied consistently. Two civic virtues, that of the little helper and the conservative jurist, seem to emerge well before the more primitive qualities we associate with infancy. It is with the conservative jurist in every breast that this essay is concerned.

Memories of early childhood record, as one of its first and most searing miseries, some occasion when our co-operation was sought on the understanding that something would be given in return, and the promise was not honoured. It is easy to work out why. The capacity which distinguishes *Homo sapiens* from other animals (except, at a low level, apes) and equips him to survive, master his world and prosper, is the capacity to plan; to decide his actions with a view to their likely consequences and the likely responses of others. We can plan our engagement with inanimate objects, as when we design a wall, and with other human beings, as when we agree the boundaries to our property.

In planning our engagements with others, nothing is more important than that we should be able to arrive at a common understanding of what consequences will flow from what actions. We must be able to say what we will do, and hear what others will do, and rely and act upon the promises (and threats) we exchange. Otherwise it is not worth starting.

Within families and small units of community, this framework is built mostly unwittingly. Its itself to need, and usually works. Problems arise, however, as the framework grows larger and more sophisticated, encompassing large numbers of people who do not know each other. At this point rules need to be formalised and in some way policed.

It is here that what we may call a "State" begins to materialise. If I promise to mention the words Hong

Kong only once below, will you accept that what follows only touches on a subject from which we are now entitled to a few days' respite? The thought set out here has been prompted — no more — by recent tributes to British colonial administration.

The key to Hong Kong's success has not been democracy. Nor, even, has it been justice. It has been the creation of a zone of certainty in an uncertain continent. That certainty was first underpinned not by Chris Patten's local democracy, but by British democracy. It matters less whose democracy, ours or theirs, provides the underpinning, than that certainty — certainty of contract, of abode, of free movement, of personal safety, of the operation of law — is underpinned. It matters less that the law is fair, than that people know what the law is: that it will not change with the weather. The benign effects of simply leaving the furniture of the State where it is, so that citizens learn how to manoeuvre without stubbing their toes, can hardly be overstated.

In human affairs there is one need above all others which good government must supply: a citizen must be enabled so to order his life that when an action is decided upon, he can make intelligent guesses about its likely consequences. Unless we can plan, the limitless energy and ingenuity of human beings is paralysed.

Why plant a field, if you have no assurance of enjoying its harvest? Why start a building if someone else may come and knock it down? Why start a business if a new government may confiscate it? Why save, if your savings may be destroyed by inflation? There is a widespread misconception in the West that people in the Third World work hard. On the whole they do not. What would be the point? We work harder.

Although the modern State has come to do many things beyond providing a rule of law, that remains its central, sacred function. If it means anything, "rule of law" means rules whose operation the ordinary

citizen can both understand and predict. In Saudi Arabia you may have a hand chopped off if you steal, but people know that. The wisdom of Solomon, although kinder and perfectly wise, fell short of the rule of law because it was not transparent in advance to his subjects.

Solomon provided equity, but what human beings require more than anything is certainty. Uncertainty is the greatest injustice of all. The vexation of a businessman fined for being hours late with his VAT payment is real, but he knows the rules. Far more sapping to commerce is the system which prevails in much of Africa, where half the tax is never collected and a minority of taxpayers is singled out at whim and overcharged.

Because certainty is the primary function of law, its value is often, paradoxically, overlooked. The 1960s, Lord Denning's heyday, saw an intellectual fashion in Britain for bending the law (or "creatively interpreting" it) in order to provide an equitable judgment in hard cases, especially in civil law.

One litigant gains a surprising victory and feels justice has been done in his particular case. That is a gain. An unquantifiable number of potential future litigants suffer a very slight diminution in the certainty with which they may reckon their chances of suing or being sued, of being acquitted or convicted. That is a greater loss. It undermines security.

In a free market economy, certainty is especially important. Nowhere is this clearer than in those "developing" countries where the arrangements that citizens wish to make with each other are interfered with by two great ills: official corruption and official caprice.

And the greatest of these ills is caprice. Corruption, if it is formalised and governed by a shared understanding of its purposes, scope and limits, need not be fatal to a flourishing economy. Italy has shown this, as has Switzerland. It is

where, as in Africa, corruption and caprice walk hand in hand that the poison paralyses trade, investment and human industry.

There is no greater enemy to caprice in government than democracy. Deprive any individual or closed elite of the power to steer the ship of state unchallenged and in perpetuity, and you make it harder to alter the ship's course at all.

This is a paradox about government which has hardly been noticed. Contrary to appearances, it is not democracy which is fickle, but dictatorship. In small, silly things — the Dangerous Dogs Act, for example — public opinion is capricious. But on all the great questions — taxation, welfare, warfare — democracy serves as a steady influence on government. Very few democracies go to war with other democracies or make sudden, destabilising changes to tax or welfare. Democracies tend towards gradualism. Tyrannies tend towards whim.

Tyrannies may look formidable, tenacious, iron-clad — but examine their record and you will find they more often behave like butterflies. Occasionally, one strong leader — an Atatürk, Tito or Franco — proves capable of holding to a course for a while, but these are the exception. The history of Africa, South America and, until recently, Asia, suggests that "strong" dictators provide weak (if sometimes cruel) government.

To sum up: in a free country and a free market, government must allow people to plan. If government does that, it has achieved the primary purpose of the State, liberating individuals to do the rest. Representative democracy is to be valued neither as an end in itself, which it is not, nor as a route to improving the quality of official decisions, which it may not do; nor as a force for efficiency, which it is far from being; nor as a dependable source of justice to individuals, which it cannot guarantee. Its value is the value of a sheet-anchor: a sail placed not into the wind but into the water, restraining the vessel from too sudden, fast or changeable a movement in any direction.

Democracy's value, in short, is to be found not in any genius for initiation or change or even reform, but in its ability to restrain the caprice of the few by the inertia of the many. Democracy, not tyranny, will prove for the next century the main engine of conservatism.

Matthew Parris

Philip Howard



William is his name, but Hague the Younger's an impostor

William Hague is not just William, nor even Just William. His instant reply to the Budget, the hardest job of the year for a politician because he has to fly blind and unbefield into turbulence, was too damned good, too good. His accents are menacing Northern when they should be a patina of genteel Surbiton. Imposed by his long-suffering mother over an impasto of 1950s schoolboy slang and common Sarfeast accent. His suits are too well-tailored and far too clean, his huge central parting is too manicured, and, as far as one can judge from the Press Gallery, his knees are not dirty enough. Above all, he seemed to be in earnest in his factitious hoo-ha about a Budget leak.

The real Just William would have had a mischievous smirk at the trouble he was hoping to cause. And he would also have been indulging in his fertile fantasy life as a world dictator or tennis ace... "Good ole Alan!" thought William and swaggered up to the dispatch box. His sense of importance rose at every step. He wasn't a boy going to reply to the Budget for his party. He was a famous circus-owner going to collect a few more lions and tigers for his circus. He stood at the dispatch box, cracking his whip. Lions, tigers, hyenas, bears, elephants and Tarzans circled around him. "Down, therel Down!" he shouted, then, "Good ole boy!" to a lion called Bill who had just walked the tightrope to thunderous applause. "You need!" to a veteran lioness who had just stalked into the ring...

No, the literary analogy does not fit exactly. For William Hague is not really Just William but Hubert Lane, leader of the rival gang to William's Outlaws. Hubert actually enjoys being smartly turned out in his Eton collar and suits. He is always polite to grown-ups and never uses coarse words such as "Cortis" in front of them. He says sick-making things such as: "Gosh, what a ripping tea, Mrs Brown." His gang, the Lanettes, are in a permanent deadly feud with the Outlaws. And although the Outlaws always win by the end, the Lanettes get plenty of chances to snigger and conspire. And Hubert gets plenty of chances to make pi speeches to the grown-ups, while his small pig-like eyes gleam in triumph.

The piggy eyes are unfair to Mr Hague. And his image is still unfamiliar to us, and may change to more of a William as we hear more from him. He will not know what we are talking about, since at the age when he should have been reading *Richmond Crompton* he was poring over *Hansard* and learning lists of prime ministers by heart, activities that William would have considered a jolly rotten swiz.

The best candidate for Just William is Kenneth Clarke, with his rumpled appearance and cavalier attitude. But Ken still belongs to the same gang as Mr Hague, just about. From the opposite side of Westminster Avenue, Gordon Brown has the right surname to be Just William, but he too seems one of nature's Lanettes. Can you imagine William saying "I will tackle the weaknesses that have held Britain back for too many years with a straight face?"

The best Just Williams on the Labour side are Tony Banks and John Prescott. There are several candidates for Violet Elizabeth Bott, but none to out-thrust and threaten the matriarch. Robin Cook is Ginger. Tony Blair could be one of those wet curates with a permanent grin, whom William keeps on interrupting while the said curate is trying to woo William's sister Ethel. Or he may be a bit of a Hubert too, one of those angelic children who are always getting the rest into trouble and somehow themselves escaping without chastisement.

Time, the great myth-maker, will tell. There used to be a theory that children liked either Just William or Swallows and Amazons, with parents favouring the latter. In my experience it is possible to enjoy both, but to prefer Angela Brazil's girl's school stories to either. And when it comes to listening to the Budget speech and then delivering an extemporary reply, the proper authority is neither Just William nor Hubert Lane, but that child for all ages, Bertie Wooster. It just shows what any Member of Parliament will tell you, that if you want real oratory, the preliminary doggin is essential. Unless pie-eyed, you cannot hope to grip.

It's over

SADDENED rather than angry, the Tory party and Lord Saatchi's advertising agency have once again parted company. The split had been predicted, as stories poured out both during and after the general election about rows over the Tories' advertising strategy pitting Saatchi against John Major and Brian Mahoney, the former party chairman.

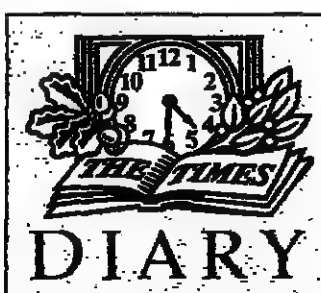
It was made formal this week,

however, by William Hague. Lord Parkinson's appointment as party chairman had raised false hopes that M&C Saatchi would survive as the Tory agency. In the short term, it is no great loss for the company. The Tories will not be needing much advertising for a while. For the 1999 European elections, however, they will hold a pitch in which Saatchi's company will have to compete with others for the account.

The last time Saatchi and the Tories split was after the 1987 election, when Sir Tim Bell's interventions muddled relations. After a period of trial separation, the two were back together again.

"The split was inevitable after what happened during the election," said one inside Hague's "fresh" party machine. "But then the love affair between the Tory party and the name Saatchi means you can never rule out a reunion."

Despite his controversial paedophile interview, things are looking up for the overcooked morning chat show host Robert Kilroy-Silk. The former Labour MP is negotiating to buy a house on the Caribbean island of Antigua.



guitar belonging to the guitarist Eric Clapton. It is on Shirley Heights in Falmouth and costs about £500,000. Kilroy-Silk excuses this gift for himself on the ground that it is a quick three-hour flight from New York, where his show will appear amid the deviants of local television.

Crrrrunch

EARLY risers on the morning after the British left Hong Kong saw the People's Army humiliated as it entered the former colony. In the drizzle and fog on the Man Kan To checkpoint, a convoy of Chinese trucks started to roll in from their enclosed encampment. Some 100 had passed through when there was a long pause in the flow.

Then, from the Hong Kong side, came several trucks from the Hong

Kong vehicle recovery unit. They disappeared over the crossing-point before returning with several Chinese trucks in various states of disrepair in tow: the most cack-handed invasion since Mussolini's tanks sank into the sands of Abyssinia. It emerged that there had been a pile-up in the enclosed area as Chinese drivers raced to be first across the border.

Oar-ful

TUESDAY night in the Hurlingham Club and the Tory Spouses' Dining Club met for the final time. It was founded in 1987 for spouses of Conservative MPs and boasted Cecilia (Lady Nicholas) Scott, Mary (Mrs Kenneth) Baker, Charmian (Mrs Timothy) Eggar and Clive Landa (the husband of Lynda Chalker) among others. After the election, however, most diners no longer fulfilled the criterion of marriage to an MP.

Much missed will be the club's rowing outings on the Thames. "We trained in a water-tank in Putney," says Lady Scott, who rowed herself. "Mary Baker used to cox. She was formidable."

Wallowing in the outcome of the Downey report, Mohamed Al Fayed's spokesman and fixer, Michael Cole, has his own dark



Nightclubber: Jamie Packer

secret: thirty years ago, he used to be called Dexter. "Dexter was only my middle name," pleads Cole, a former chief elf in the Harrods grotto. "Everybody addressed me by it, but my bosses at Anglia TV persuaded me that Michael sounded better, so I changed to that and stuck with it."

Spliced

EARLIER this week Jamie Packer braced himself and telephoned his father, the Australian billionaire Kerry Packer. He told the old man that he had become, engaged to



Nude film role: Kate Fischer

Kate Fischer, 23, best known for her naked role in the Australian film *Sirens*. Sydney's nightclubs, where the young Packer was a regular guest, are in mourning.

Previous contenders for Packer's hand include the weathergirl Tania Bryer and the shopping journalist Nicola Forbury. "The family have no comment to make," says one of Packer Senior's staff at the Savoy Hotel, where he is occupying four suites for the London season. "We have not yet planned the party."

P.H.S

مقدون الاصل



THE DOWNEY VERDICT

A damning judgment on the arrogance of power

How quickly current affairs can become history. Had the Downey report on the "cash for questions" scandal been published, as it should have been, before the general election, the Conservatives might have suffered an electoral catastrophe rather than a mere disaster. Now, two months later, the MPs condemned by Sir Gordon Downey are out of the Commons anyway. The fate of the governing party has already been decided. All that remains is the reputation of five former Members of Parliament.

But, as a verdict on the integrity of two members of the last Government, Sir Gordon's report is devastating. Statements by Neil Hamilton, former Trade Minister, were "in varying degrees untruthful". Mr Hamilton "deliberately misled the President of the Board of Trade", "enriched himself at the indirect expense of a constituent", and "persistently and deliberately failed to declare his interests in dealings with ministers and officials... and in some cases was positively misleading". Worst of all, Sir Gordon finds the evidence "compelling" that Mr Hamilton accepted cash from Mohamed Al Fayed in return for lobbying services. "The way in which these payments were received and concealed," he finds, "fell well below the standards expected of Members of Parliament."

Tim Smith, the former Northern Ireland Minister, is found to have accepted between £18,000 and £25,000 from Mr Al Fayed, made "a disingenuous attempt at concealment" and also failed to declare his interests to ministers and officials. Sir Andrew Bowden, Sir Michael Grynlls and Michael Brown are found guilty of receiving payments and failing to declare them as well.

At least Mr Smith eventually admitted to having taken money. He resigned his Beaconsfield seat shortly before the election. Mr Hamilton, however, decided to brazen it out. He fought Martin Bell in Taton on the

ground that he was innocent of all the allegations against him. He wrote to this newspaper in such terms too. Although the voters delivered their verdict on May 1, he continued to protest that he would be exonerated. Even now, after the most damning possible findings from an independent and fair-minded investigator, Mr Hamilton claims to have suffered a "miscarriage of justice".

Most will find his remarks laughable. After all, as Sir Gordon writes: "It is difficult to escape the conclusion that, as the inquiry has progressed and more and more has been discovered, Mr Hamilton's credibility has suffered increasingly serious damage." Like Jonathan Aitken, Mr Hamilton seems to belong to the breed of Conservative politician who assumes that, if lies are delivered loudly, indignantly and persuasively enough, they will be believed. It was this public sense that ministers felt they could get away with anything that contributed to the scale of the Tory defeat at the last election. Mr Hamilton seems to have learnt nothing.

Had he, like Mr Smith, stood down before the election, criticism of him now would be far more muted. "Never apologise, never explain" is a bad maxim for politics. It discredited the last administration and it taints Mr Hamilton today. His reputation has been destroyed anyway; he could redeem himself a little if he were to show some humility in the face of the overwhelming judgment against him.

This report is also a test for the new Tory Opposition. John Major's name has already been damaged by the charge that he deliberately prorogued Parliament early in order that the report could be kept secret until after the election. William Hague can show that he genuinely intends to make a "fresh start" by disowning all the guilty men in the Downey report and ensuring that his party never lends its name to them again.

MAKING WORK PAY

An American lesson that Labour should be happy to learn

In the midst of many technical announcements concerning tax and spending issues on Wednesday, Gordon Brown noted that he had asked Martin Taylor of Barclays Bank to extend his study of tax-benefit integration to include the "earned income tax credit" pioneered in the United States. Despite the attention given to the windfall tax and Labour's proposals for the "young, unemployed," outlined by David Blunkett today, this section of the Chancellor's speech may ultimately prove more significant.

The earned income tax credit was signed into American law by President Gerald Ford in 1975. It was doubled in scope by Ronald Reagan who once described the programme as "the best anti-poverty measure ever to come out of Congress". It has been expanded since by both George Bush and Bill Clinton. It involves a tax credit for the working poor, increasing with family size, that is gradually phased out as income increases. If the credit exceeds the amount of income tax charged then the remainder is returned to the individual concerned. The measure overtly rewards work, is simpler than schemes that operate through benefits, and is popular with beneficiaries and taxpayers alike.

Its attraction to the Government is obvious. Work has become the watchword of the new Labour approach to welfare: This is not merely for the savings it would produce in the social security budget (which this year will exceed the total receipts of income tax and corporation tax combined) but also for the self-reliance and self-esteem it encourages among those who have moved from entitlement to employment. In this respect, Tony Blair is following the path set by both parties in the United States.

As Labour will discover, however, it is not

a move without complications and costs. To be effective the credit must consider household as well as individual income. That compromises the widely supported shift towards the separate taxation of men and women that was introduced by Nigel Lawson. The proposal would involve some additional administrative burden on business. It also touches on the thorny question of whether women should be the predominant recipients of social payments intended for family use.

These last two factors led the House of Lords to stop a similar proposal by Margaret Thatcher's Government a decade ago. That defeat led to the adoption of family credit as an alternative. This has comparable objectives but operates as a benefit: it has an indifferent take-up rate — at most 70 per cent — not least because of the reluctance of many families to apply for what they regard as charity. Mr Brown does not believe that this is as direct an incentive to move towards work as a reward within the tax system. His instincts are sound.

The objections raised are not inconsequential. But they would apply to any serious attempt at overhauling present arrangements. Some of them, such as the impact on business, can be compensated for by offsetting inducements. Other complications are real but part of the price for moving people out of Welfare to Work. The principle that employment should be maximised — and employed people excluded as far as possible from the benefits bureaucracy — is both right and fundamental to reform. Adherence to this maxim will determine whether Labour's first Budget has a long-term impact on public policy as well as a short-term effect on public opinion.

LAVA LOUITS

Risks of violence from a badly behaved volcano

Frightening scenes viewed from a sufficient distance inspire a terrible delight, as Edmund Burke observed. While few may choose to wander the flanks of a volcano while it is erupting, seen from afar the spectacle has an undeniable grandeur. It seems to mock man's pretensions and make clear that nature's power is of an altogether different order. Such sights, to Burke, summed up the sublime, though his critics took much pleasure in seeking a precise measure to distinguish sublimity from sheer terror. How far away did one have to be, they inquired, before the quaking legs gave way to aesthetic euphoria?

Had he known, he might have answered that it depended greatly on the type of volcano. Those in Hawaii are as good-tempered as volcanoes know how to be, the steady flow of lava down the mountainside posing few risks and plenty of harmless excitement. Strombolian volcanoes, which hurl out rocks of a consistent size and at a consistent speed, are also relatively benign, though they can sometimes change their tempo and catch out the unwary. The truly dangerous eruptions, such as those in a past week in Montserrat, are composed of a hot cloud of dust and gas which sweeps down the mountain so fast that escape is impossible. In such pyroclastic flows the element of fear far outweighs any possible pleasure, and the damage done to life and property is enormous.

Such destructive eruptions are relatively

rare events in relation to human lifespan, far too infrequent to determine settlement patterns. Around the world many great cities lie almost in the shadow of volcanoes that have been dormant so long that their danger is discounted. Often, the fertile soil produced by the volcano actually attracts people to live around it, while expanding populations ensure that the numbers theoretically at risk are higher now than they have ever been. In human history, the eruption of Vesuvius in AD79 claimed about 2,000 victims; if it happened again today without warning, it would probably kill 200,000. The island of Java, where a high proportion of the 175,000 deaths that have been caused by volcanic eruptions in the past 200 years have occurred, is four times as densely populated today as it was in 1955.

Many efforts have been made to improve volcano prediction, with some success, but it remains an inexact science. Even when successful predictions are made, as at Mount St Helens in 1980, it is difficult to persuade everybody to believe them and leave the area. Even more is this true of the developing world, where mobility is lower and the credibility of government agencies less. In the past few decades we have been lucky, with only one eruption, at Nevado del Ruiz in Colombia, claiming lives on a massive scale. But it would be unwise to assume that this state of affairs can continue indefinitely. The risks are much greater than is generally acknowledged.

Brown's Budget of mixed blessings

From the Director of the Association for the Conservation of Energy

Sir, It was only last week that the Prime Minister returned from the Earth Summit, confirming that Britain was adopting one of the toughest targets to combat climate change. He told the House of Commons that "the single best thing we can do, in relation to that target, is to improve energy efficiency" (*Hansard*, June 24, col 686).

Yesterday the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced substantial tax reductions on fossil fuels — the excess burning of which is the main cause of climate change. He has widened the differential of value-added tax raised, so that the tax on energy conservation materials is no longer just twice that levied on energy consumption. Instead it is some three and a half times higher (17.5 per cent and 5 per cent). This further reduces the already limited incentives to improve energy efficiency.

I am curious to know whether the Prime Minister and his Chancellor ever speak.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW WARREN,
Director, Association for the Conservation of Energy,
Westgate House, Prebend Street, NI,
July 3.

From Mr Gordon Philo

Sir, The Chancellor has hit both pension funds and those pensioners who have been indirectly subsidising the NHS by taking out private health insurance — some of whom will now become a further NHS burden.

Under new Labour we were led to expect a new age. Should it not have been new ageism?

Yours sincerely,
GORDON PHILO,
10 Abercorn Close, NW8,
July 3.

From the Director General of Save the Children

Sir, We welcome the Government's commitment, reinforced in the Budget, to help young people in improving their employment prospects. Many young people will benefit significantly from their six-month placements under the Welfare to Work proposals, even though there can be no guarantee of employment in the long-term.

However, from this point, Save the Children urges the Government to undertake full consultation, involving young people themselves and continuing throughout the pilot schemes. Only then will Welfare to Work schemes stand a chance of meeting the needs of a true cross-section of young people, including the most disadvantaged.

Nowhere is this need for discussion more clearly demonstrated than with the Government's intention to withhold welfare benefits from those whom they perceive as not wanting to "fit in". This could have serious consequences for a significant minority of marginalised young people who cannot settle into schemes through no fault of their own and for a variety of reasons — for example homelessness, emotional problems, family responsibilities or learning difficulties. This desire for consultation and sanctions must be questioned.

Yours faithfully,
MIKE AARONSON,
Director General,
Save the Children Fund (UK),
17 Grove Lane, SES,
July 3.

From Mr P. B. Young

Sir, Anne Aspinall (Comment, July 3) feels that the proposed Individual Savings Account needs a catchy acronym to compete with Pep and Tessa. Possibly unwittingly the Chancellor has surely created the Isaac.

Yours faithfully,
P. B. YOUNG,
Higher Orchard,
Burgmann's Hill, Lynstone, Devon,
July 3.

Music fans galore

From Mrs Pauline Morton

Sir, Simon Jenkins asks "where did they come from, all these people", who fill the London concert halls ("Midsummer melodies", June 28).

Admits now, they come, many of them, from the groups of children who were nurtured in musical skills and appreciation by the bearded teachers of the last 20 or 30 years. These teachers devoted lunch hours and after-school time to teach simple and more difficult instruments, and formed orchestras and choirs to give polished and enthusiastic performances.

Precious Saturdays were relinquished to take pupils to children's concerts, such as those sponsored by Sir Robert Mayer. Expertise and time, given outside school hours, encouraged a lifetime of appreciation and musical participation.

Will today's children, in these times of overcrowded curriculums, stressed teachers and lack of resources for musical education, fill the concert halls of the next century?

Yours faithfully,
PAULINE MORTON,
Rowdie Court,
Rowdie, Devizes, Wiltshire,
June 28.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Orange march 'not intimidatory'

From the Leader of the Ulster Unionist Party and MP for Upper Bann

Sir, Mike Brodgen's letter (July 3) comparing Orange walks to National Front marches shows that he has learnt very little about Northern Ireland in the three years since his arrival there. Then he distinguished himself by proposing that community policing should be done by the local paramilitary organisations. Today's contribution is effectively the same.

It must be remembered that there are 3,000 or so parades a year, mainly Orange but with many nationalist and other parades. Fewer than a dozen cause any difficulty.

Portadown Orangemen processing to and from Drumcree Parish Church do not go through the streets of a Catholic community. They return to Portadown along the B28, the most direct highway from the church to the town centre. The route was not chosen, as Brodgen suggests, in order to intimidate Catholics, as this church service was established in 1807 at which time the road passed through countryside which was entirely Protestant.

There are two modern public-authority housing estates adjacent to the road, which are now almost entirely Catholic. But when built they were mixed, and only became Catholic when Protestants moved out as a result of republican violence — which included the murder of several local Protestants.

Despite this, Portadown Orangemen have been conciliatory. The number of parades in the area has

been reduced in the last ten years from ten to one a year. No bands which could be perceived as antagonistic to Catholics take part, only mainly girls' accordion bands playing hymn music largely common to both traditions. No large Orange banners are carried — only one Union Flag is displayed, with one other flag and a "bannerman". Orange Order marshals ensure that discipline is maintained and that there is no confrontation on the part of the marchers.

Portadown Orange parades are always headed by Portadown ex-servicemen's lodge. By contrast, the Catholic nationalist opposition is led by a person whose chief claim to fame is his convictions for republican terrorism connected with the bombing of the Royal British Legion Hall in Portadown.

Throughout the current controversy the Orange Order has sought to discover from local Catholics if there are any circumstances in which they will tolerate the sight of Protestant Orangemen walking back from church; but there has been no response.

It is important that the rule of law be maintained and that the right to assemble and move freely along the Queen's highway be preserved. Government should not ban peaceful citizens from exercising their rights in a non-provocative manner at the behest of those who threaten violence.

Sincerely,
DAVID TRIMBLE,
House of Commons,
July 3.

Fate and future of Royal Air Force

From Mr Keith D. R. Mans

Sir, It would be hard to imagine a better illustration of what happens if you leave the exercise of air power to soldiers and sailors than the disastrous loss of HMS *Glorious* in June 1940, as featured on Channel 4 last night. Essentially, 1,500 men lost their lives because the captain of the ship failed to use his aircraft to protect his ship or to take the fight to the enemy.

Those of us who want to see the Royal Air Force remain a separate service do so because we believe air power is such an important component in modern military strategy that it cannot be left to former tank commanders like Lord Carver (letter, June 26) or First World War submariners like Captain Guy D'Oyley-Hughes of HMS *Glorious* to exercise properly.

It is because of the devastating effectiveness of air power, as recently witnessed in the Gulf War and in Bosnia, that its control needs to be coordinated at the highest level. Otherwise, it is ground and naval forces that suffer most. Today's generals and admirals need to ponder carefully the consequences of downgrading and dividing up air power by abolishing the Royal Air Force. In my view, this would inevitably lead to much higher casualties on the ground and to ships going to the bottom of the ocean.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH MANS,
(Member, House of Commons
Defence Select Committee, 1995-97),
3 Dell Way, Ealing, W13,
July 1.

From Mr John Nelmer

Sir, It was inevitable that Lord Carver's letter would provoke retaliatory strikes from the squadrons of the retired air force. But despite their protest, it is to be hoped that the Government will do as he suggests.

Certainly the question of "what is the RAF for?" has been hovering in the background ever since the first Polaris submarine was commissioned. The development of long-range stand-off weapons has given the question more force, and it is not necessary to have a

dedicated air force in order to deploy these weapons. With the advent of submarine-launched cruise missiles, the US Navy can accurately strike targets from the sea which the USAF cannot reach from its fixed bases.

The argument, surely, is not that armies and navies do not need air supremacy to survive. It is about how that air supremacy is gained and, once won, retained. Even the Americans are dismayed at the price of maintaining the USAF. It is surely time that the question be asked: "What is the RAF for?"

Yours sincerely,
JOHN NEIMER,
(Artificer, Fleet Air Arm, 1958-68),
Melcombe House,
4 Cranford Avenue,
Weymouth, Dorset,
July 1.

From Mr Denis Christian

Sir, In the context of a weighty and intellectual onslaught from Lord Carver and others on the continued life of the RAF, one doubts that the present Air Staff are best served by gallant warriors of yesteryear deploying the "remember the Battle of Britain" line.

Yours faithfully,
D. A. CHRISTIAN,
(Flight Lieutenant, RAF, ret'd),
The Town House, 2 Chichester Place,
Kemp Town, Brighton, Sussex,
July 2.

From Group Captain Derrick Orchard (ret'd)

Sir, It would be most unwise to assume that ground-to-air missiles could replace manned aircraft (letters, June 30). Such systems could not provide constant air superiority over a theatre of war, either land or sea.

Furthermore, however sophisticated these systems, the Gulf War demonstrated how efficiently manned aircraft can knock them out.

Yours faithfully,
DERRICK ORCHARD,
35 Cornwall Road,
Harpenden, Hertfordshire,
July 1.

Teaching methods

From Mr Alan Millard

Sir, Not all teachers over 50 will, as Nigel de Gruchy, leader of NASUWT, suggests, "smile wryly with the awkward acknowledgment that some of the methods imposed on them in the 1960s and 1970s were either wrong in themselves or impossible to operate" (report, June 27). Some, like me, will be weeping over his readiness to abandon those ideals which many believed were right and could have been operated had they been properly understood and adequately resourced.

It was only after a sustained and arguably ill-informed campaign that the Black Paper movement succeeded in turning the clock back, beating the few remaining reformers into reluctant submission. All that now remains to be seen is what will happen when the unsolved problems of the "old ways" re-emerge. The reforms of the Sixties arose from a desire to replace what we now embrace: rote-learning, testing, selection and streaming.

The swing of the pendulum will always produce a few very smiles. Mine must wait until someone blows the dust from the Plowden report and rediscovers those more promising directions which were never determinedly tried nor consistently pursued.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN MILLARD,
8 Medina Court,
Marine Parade West,
Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire.

Albanian refugees

From the Ambassador of Italy

Sir, *Il Messaggero*'s statistics, which you quote today under the heading "Albanian refugees slip net in Italy", are incorrect.

The facts are as follows. Since the beginning of the crisis 16,798 Albanian citizens have entered Italy. Of these 4,398 have already been repatriated, 3,853 remain in refugee centres, 5,023 have been given temporary hospitality with Albanians regularly resident in Italy, and 1,072 arrived in Italy already in possession of regular permits of residence. Thus fewer than 3,000 have absconded from the refugee centres without permission.

A programme of repatriation is already in place and will start in co-operation with the Albanian authorities soon after the completion of the elections in Albania. This programme will also apply to those who have absconded from the refugee centres.

Yours faithfully,
PAOLO GALLI,
Italian Embassy,
14 Three Kings Yard, W1,
June 27.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046 — e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Show me these 'sybaritic' bishops

From Mrs Christopher Herbert

Sir, Writing as a busy schoolteacher, married to an equally busy bishop, I wish I could meet these chauffeur-driven bishops with lavish lifestyles and large staffs, referred to in the review by Lord Bridge of Harwich, *Synodical Government in the Church of England* (report, June 30).

Having spent 16 hours on church business this weekend — nine preparing for hosting and cleaning up after a day for the clergy families of the diocese here, five at an anniversary service and lunch in a parish, and two at a garden party for retired clergy at the suffragan bishop's house — I find myself this morning desperately racing to write the lower sixth's report to meet a 4pm deadline. Of course this has to be interrupted to make the coffees for the diocesan staff-meeting here; my husband's secretary, bless her, will deal with the staff-meeting lunch as I have to be in school by then.

I do have a day off on Thursday, so I can manage the ordination tea party for 30 without any problems; but I am worried about getting ready for the post-ordination drinks for 150 here on Sunday, given the need to visit our aged parents in Surrey on Saturday. Yes, my husband did ask the gardener to drive him to a service one day last week: that was because the only time he had available to write the eighth sermon, address or speech of the week was in the car.

I could go on — and on — but I would miss the reports deadline and my colleagues, quite rightly, would be after my blood. But I wish I could meet these sybaritic bishops.

Yours, brimming with charity,
JAN HERBERT,
Abbey Gate House,
St Albans, Hertfordshire,
June 30.

Church openness

From the Reverend Tony Whipp

Sir, Lord Bridge of Harwich claims that his synodical review group was "chiefly concerned with affirming the principles of openness, accountability and subsidiarity".

The reality is that it recommends reducing representation on our national governing body by a third and abolishing completely the level of government closest to the parishes. The impact of such changes could only be that matters would be discussed by far fewer members of the Church and that those discussions would take place closer to the archbishops and bishops and very much further from individual members of the Church.

Openness, accountability and subsidiarity are concepts to which anyone involved in the governance of our Church is no stranger. The proposals you report, however, clearly militate directly against them.

Yours faithfully,
TONY WHIPP,
St Peter's Vicarage, Cliff Road,
Kells, Whitehaven, Cumbria,
tony@cheerwhipp.demon.co.uk
June 30.

Whatever the weather

From Mrs Penny Rutherford

Sir, In all the recent references to sporting and social events that have been rained off recently, I have seen no mention of the gallant Regent's Park Open Air Theatre company. They performed on both last Thursday and Friday, days on which Wimbledon was rained off. It seems that for hardy thespians rain does not stop play.

Yours faithfully,
PENNY RUTHERFORD,
9 College Drive, Ruislip, Middlesex,
don@ruthers.demon.co.uk
July 1.

Pound penalty

From Mr Edward Samples

Sir, I was interested to read in your Business section today about the strengthening of sterling, some 35 per cent against the mark since 1995, as I am contemplating buying a Volkswagen car. As the retail price continues to rise in sterling, rather than stabilise or fall, is the company not benefiting unduly from the windfall profits arising from the stronger pound?

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD SAMPLES,
33 Linden Way, Darras Hall,
Ponteland, Northumberland,
July 1.

Urban dereliction

From Mr Paul J. Hickey

Sir, Suburbs have nothing to do with geography (letter, June 26) but are states of mind.

For example, Golders Green is a suburb while Hampstead and Highgate are not. Indeed, if you told any of the illuminati who run the Heath and Old Hampstead Society that they lived in a suburb, they would probably come round and pebble-dash your house...

Yours faithfully,
PAUL J. HICKEY,
10 Ebbesfleet Road, NW2,
July 1.

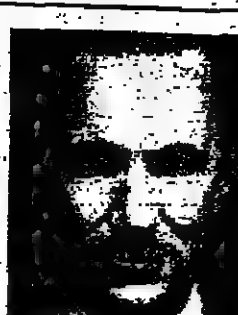
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THE TIMES

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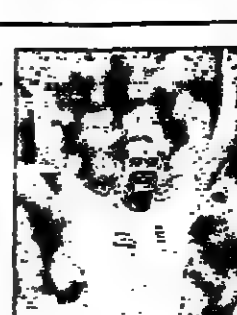
INSIDE SECTION
2
TODAY



ECONOMICS
Anatole Kaletsky
examines the merits
of Brown's Budget
PAGE 29



EDUCATION
Is the headteacher
responsible for
running the school?
PAGE 39



SPORT
Headley swift to
get into swing
of Test cricket
PAGES 40-48

**TELEVISION
AND
RADIO**
PAGES
46, 47

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY JULY 4 1997

Lockheed menaces Europe with big merger

By Oliver August

LOCKHEED MARTIN, the world's biggest defence group, is merging with Northrop Grumman, one of its main US rivals. The \$11.6 billion deal completes the consolidation of the US aerospace industry and poses a serious commercial threat to European manufacturers, including British Aerospace.

The deal was triggered by the \$13 billion merger of Boeing and McDonnell Douglas, which is currently being investigated by the European Commission. A spokesman for Karel van Miert, the Competition Commissioner, said that a Lockheed investigation is being considered.

Combining Lockheed and Northrop will create a group with annual sales of \$37 billion and a global workforce of 230,000. Both companies said that they did not expect anti-trust objections.

Norman Augustine, the Lockheed chairman, approached Northrop Grumman a few months ago. He said: "Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman have been leaders in consolidating the aerospace industry, and we are now taking the next logical step in combining together to shape the future."

Kent Kresak, the Northrop chairman, will serve as vice-chairman of the new Lockheed group.

A BAE spokesman said: "This merger serves to remind the Europeans that we have to move forward. We would like to move faster, but we cannot copy these sort of moves." BAE will be less than half the size of the new US giant, whose economies of scale will help it to outbid European competition.



Shape for the future: Norman Augustine said Lockheed and Northrop Grumman were taking a logical step towards consolidating the industry

Employers face £75bn pension fund bill

By Paul Durman and Caroline Merrell

THE pension fund industry is claiming employers will have to find an additional £75 billion over the next ten years to meet the cost of the Budget's changes to the taxation of dividend income.

While the Treasury continued to insist that existing surpluses would lessen the impact, pension experts were in turmoil, producing widely varying assessments of the reduction in investment returns; the increased cost to pension schemes and the numerous knock-on effects. Yet to the astonishment of some actuaries, the stock market soared to a new peak of 4831.7, 80.3 points up on the day.

Peter Murray, chairman of the National Association of Pension Funds, said the Treasury's estimate of an annual cost of £2.5 billion covered the cost of higher future pension contributions only. Another £45 billion would have to be put into schemes to meet existing liabilities. Spread over ten years, and with £5 billion added for interest costs, this gives the NAPF its total of £75 billion.

A different approach taken by Andrew Wilson, partner at Watson Wyatt, the pension consultants, suggested that £70 billion had been wiped off the value of UK pension funds. The industry has about £600 billion of investments, roughly half of them in UK shares. Some pension scheme

advisers said employers would stop offering guaranteed pensions under final salary schemes, and will instead offer less secure schemes that require employees to bear the investment risk. Johnstone Douglas, the benefit consultants, said the move represented "the final nail in the coffin" for final salary schemes.

Legal & General said one large scheme, with a £250 million surplus, had immediately decided to close its final salary scheme to new members. The Chancellor's change has wiped out the surplus, giving it a £30 million deficit. The loss of the 20 per cent tax credit on dividends will also increase the cost of clearing up the personal pension mis-selling scandal. Andrew

Black, marketing manager of Standard Life, the insurer, said the cost of reinstating victims in company pension schemes would rise by up to 10 per cent.

Other insurers expect the changes to add to the estimated £4 billion cost of sorting out the mess, which embraces about 500,000 personal pension policyholders. The Securities and Investments Board, the senior financial regulator, is seeking actuarial advice, but suggested the tax change should not seriously affect or further delay compensation.

Those who have already received compensation via a payment into their personal pension plans will suffer because of a fall in future investment returns. Mr Black said policyholders who are 20 years from retirement face a 15 per cent drop in the pension they can expect. Younger investors 40 years from retirement may lose a quarter of their pension. Estimates of the fall in investment returns ranged from 1 per cent a year from Legal & General, to perhaps as little as 0.25 per cent, according to Mike Wadsworth, another Watson Wyatt partner. Although pension investors face a 20 per cent loss in income from UK shares, money in overseas investments, government bonds and property will not be affected. The dividend credit loss will be partly offset by the Chancellor's two-point cut in corporation tax.

Public sector pension schemes, such as those for the Civil Service and local authorities, will also be hit. The funding shortfall will have to be met by the taxpayer.

Commentary, page 27
Economic view, page 29

tion to the Budget has been too pessimistic. The Bank's dissatisfaction with recent sterling strength will make them reluctant to hike more than a quarter point in one hit. The Bank of England broke with a tradition of Budget neutrality on Wednesday to issue a statement welcoming the Budget and especially the planned improvement in government finances. It hinted that it may pursue a less aggressive interest rate policy because the Budget had provided 'help' in dealing with the problem of the high pound, although it did not solve the Bank's dilemma.

Mr Black said policyholders who are 20 years from retirement face a 15 per cent drop in the pension they can expect. Younger investors 40 years from retirement may lose a quarter of their pension. Estimates of the fall in investment returns ranged from 1 per cent a year from Legal & General, to perhaps as little as 0.25 per cent, according to Mike Wadsworth, another Watson Wyatt partner. Although pension investors face a 20 per cent loss in income from UK shares, money in overseas investments, government bonds and property will not be affected. The dividend credit loss will be partly offset by the Chancellor's two-point cut in corporation tax.

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Commentary, page 27
Economic view, page 29

Mirror to unveil bid for Midland titles

By Eric Reguly

MIRROR GROUP, publisher of *The Mirror*, *Daily Record* and *The Sporting Life*, is expected to reveal this morning a £285 million agreed bid for Midland Independent Newspapers (MIN). The move will mark Mirror's first foray into regional newspapers south of the Scottish border.

MIN is Britain's sixth-largest regional newspaper group by circulation. Its biggest titles are *The Birmingham Post* and *Evening Mail*, and the *Coventry Evening Telegraph* and *Sunday Mercury*.

Mirror Group's offer is expected to be pitched at about 210p a share, compared with MIN's price of 149p on the day before the companies were forced to admit that takeover negotiations were under way. MIN is also expected to reveal that its forecast for this year's pre-tax profits is as much as £25 million.

MIN shares closed yesterday at 188p, up 1p, after an 8p rise on Wednesday. The company was floated in 1994 at 140p and rarely rose above that price until the Mirror Group's intentions were made known.

Mirror Group shares have gone in the opposite direction on investors' fears that the deal does not make economic sense. Newsquest, the American-backed company that beat Mirror Group last year for control of Westminster Press, has valued MIN at only about 165p a share. It has stated that it will not launch a rival bid.

MIN's operations do not appear to leave much room for cost cutting. Its operating margins, at about 20 per cent, are among the industry's highest. Directors of MIN, led by Chris Oakley, chief executive, will not get rich if the deal goes through. They own less than 1 per cent of the equity.

BUSINESS TODAY

| STOCK MARKET INDICES | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| FTSE 100 | 4831.7 (+80.3) |
| Yield | 3.3% |
| FTSE All share | 2293.36 (+26.94) |
| Nikkei | 8012.41 (+75.01) |
| New York | 1467.5 (+2.44) |
| Dow Jones | 7896.87 (+100.43) |
| S&P Composite | 918.91 (+12.88) |
| US RATE | |
| Federal Funds | 5 1/8% (5%) |
| Long Bond | 100 1/8% (98 1/8%) |
| Yield | 6.82% (6.71%) |
| LONDON MONEY | |
| 3-month interbank | 7% (6 1/4%) |
| Life long gilt | 114 1/8% (114 1/8%) |
| Future (Sep) | |
| STERLING | |
| New York | 1.6906 (1.6770) |
| London | 1.6838 (1.6808) |
| DM | 2.9448 (2.8898) |
| FF | 9.9285 (9.7363) |
| SF | 11.4675 (11.4244) |
| Yen | 161.20 (159.82) |
| £ Index | 102.5 (101.7) |
| DOLLAR | |
| London | 1.7880 (1.7880) |
| FF | 5.9990 (6.9105) |
| SF | 14.680 (14.715) |
| Yen | 112.55 (114.50) |
| £ Index | 102.5 (102.5) |
| Tokyo close Yen | 114.31 |
| NORTH SEA OIL | |
| Brent 15-day (Sep) | \$18.30 (\$18.88) |
| GOLD | |
| London close | \$331.65 (\$332.35) |

Double

BAA has launched a \$674 million bid for Duty Free International, the quoted American tax-free retailer. It will double the size of BAA's duty-free operation, creating the world's second-largest duty-free retailer, with sales exceeding \$1 billion. Page 27

Bills cut

Electricity bills could fall by £27 next year because of fresh price controls being considered by the industry regulator ahead of the introduction of a competitive market. Page 31

Canon make the best budget Inkjet printer in the world.

Personal Computer World that is.

According to Personal Computer World, at under £200 the Canon BJC-240 colour printer is the clear winner in the best budget inkjet award for 1997. What more would you need to be tempted? Possibly, that it's currently being sold with a free mono ink cartridge (rrp £23 + VAT).

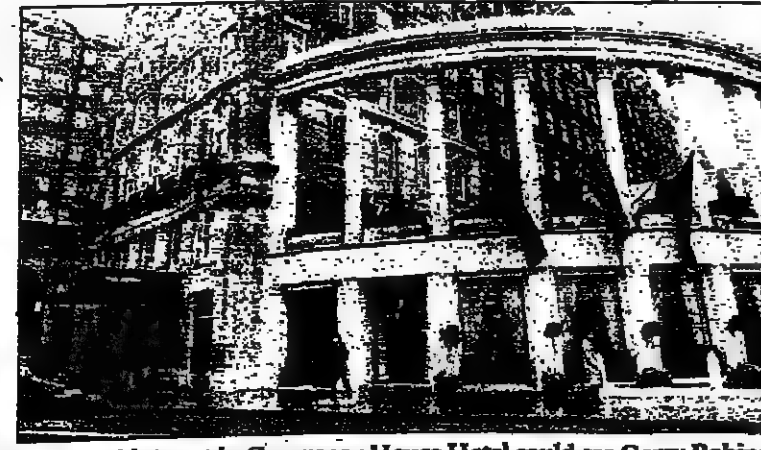


For more information call free on 0500 246 246.

Granada in talks over £350m Grosvenor sale

By Dominic Walsh

GRANADA is in negotiations to sell the landmark Grosvenor House Hotel on Park Lane in London for more than £350 million, just five months after it said it was taking the five-star property off the market.



Renewed interest in Grosvenor House Hotel could see Gerry Robinson, right, close a £350 million sale



Renewed interest in Grosvenor House Hotel could see Gerry Robinson, right, close a £350 million sale

takeover of Forte, the hotel and restaurant empire. Famous names such as the George-V in Paris and London's Hyde Park Hotel have sold for well above book value, but Granada hit a brick wall with the Grosvenor House. Although it has a

book value of £302 million, it was valued at £375 million by Christie & Co as part of Forte's bid defence, and Gerry Robinson, Granada chairman, is thought to have put its asking price close to the Christie figure. In the initial sale process potential

buyers appeared to be put off by the level of investment required to revive what has become a somewhat tired hotel. Although it is forecast to make almost £30 million this year, industry experts estimate the likely cost of refurbishment at £60 million to £100

million, with the Great Room alone requiring at least £15 million. Granada's response was to take the Grosvenor House off the market and start a £30 million refurbishment of its own. Ironically, it is this action that appears to have flushed out fresh interest. The Althani family already has substantial hotel interests in the Middle East and is known to be a regular user of the Grosvenor House, which is situated close to the Qatar Embassy in South Audley Street. Ritz-Carlton, meanwhile, has long been seeking a hotel in London, and a tie-up with wealthy Middle Eastern investors would be a logical move. Granada, which has eight other Exclusives and 13 Heritage hotels up for sale, as well as its 68 per cent stake in the Savoy Group, declined to comment. However, a source close to the company admitted that since February's announcement there had been a revival of interest and a sale at the right price remains a possibility.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Group 2000 threat to Sunday paper

The U.S. backed Mr Brown's claims that the windfall tax would not hit employment, prices or the quality of service in the utility sector. The institute argued that, because the windfall tax is a one-off tax on past performance, it should

The IFS also said that the threat of companies taking legal action against the tax had receded. Lucy Chennels, of the IFS, said: "Legal cases seem unlikely now that BT, which probably had the best case, is paying less than expected."

Weekly jobseeker's allowance payments for young people in this age group at the moment are £38.90 for a single person, rising to £77.15 for a couple and £93.80 for a couple with one child under the age of 11.



Hong Kong's economy has risen almost 6 per cent a year over the past decade and nearly all economists expect the rise to continue, with the switch to Chinese rule not, in the words of the trade, "a market factor".

ADACTE, an organisation in Paris that represents small shareholders in Eurotunnel, has appealed to a French court *against a ruling* that the banks would not have to make a bid for the company, which operates the Channel Tunnel, if the £4.4 billion refinancing goes through at next week's shareholders' meeting. The deal would give the company's bankers 45.5 per cent of Eurotunnel's equity, but, under French law, they would not be able to vote these shares on any matter that affected the value of the company's debts.

$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{1}{2} m v^2 \right) = \frac{1}{2} m \frac{d}{dt} (v^2) = \frac{1}{2} m \frac{d}{dt} (v_x^2 + v_y^2 + v_z^2) = \frac{1}{2} m \left(2 v_x \frac{d v_x}{dt} + 2 v_y \frac{d v_y}{dt} + 2 v_z \frac{d v_z}{dt} \right) = m \left(v_x \frac{d v_x}{dt} + v_y \frac{d v_y}{dt} + v_z \frac{d v_z}{dt} \right)$

.. ..

$$f_{\text{max}} = 100 \text{ Hz} \quad \text{and} \quad f_{\text{min}} = 10 \text{ Hz} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{bandwidth} = 10 \text{ Hz} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{resolution} = 1 \text{ Hz}$$

—

Interested parties who wish to make representations concerning the Wiltshire North and Bath (No.47) and Dorset and East Devon (No.61) EPCs are advised to attend both venues.

1997, that a local inquiry is their provisionally recommended action. At 1978 (as amended) the inquiry will be conducted by a person appointed by the Secretary of State. The inquiry will be conducted by a person appointed by the Secretary of State. The inquiry will be conducted by a person appointed by the Secretary of State.

make representations concerning the Wiltshire North and East Devon (No.61) EPCs are advised to attend both venues.

Learn to love a strong currency



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Never before has a Chancellor produced a Budget to meet with such a surge of approval from the markets. Investors clamoured aboard the biggest ever post-Budget day rally and sterling soared, as sober reflection and the inevitable carping failed to quell enthusiasm for Mr Brown's efforts.

The irony is that the powering pound is as distasteful to the Chancellor as it is to those manufacturers that strive to compete internationally, but while other currencies look so unstable, sterling will continue to win friends.

Exporters have little choice but to learn to live with a strong pound, and those pressure groups that purport to represent them would be better employed advising on how this can be done than on calling on the Government for measures to make the British economy look less attractive.

For some companies — British Steel hammers into mind — the challenge is undeniably tough. But most of our manufacturing companies have long given up the thankless battle of trying to sell basic products into world markets on price alone.

Clever currency hedging may provide temporary help, but, as some former finance directors can testify, such moves do not

always unravel quite as cleverly as they were supposed to do.

The added value of innovation and ingenuity will have to be what wins sales for Britain. The words slip easily off an imported keyboard and are harder to translate into the tough reality of industry, but it can be done.

Pharmaceutical companies know that success depends on finding not just one but a series of new products that the world wants to buy. Zantac alone would not have guaranteed Glaxo Wellcome a future, for when the patent comes off, generic competitors can fight on the dangerous ground of price.

Courtaulds would be heading for disaster if it relied on viscose coming back into fashion. Instead, it has invested hugely in developing Tencel, a fabric for which international markets are, apparently, acquiring something of a fetish, allowing the company to charge a price as smoothly comforting as the silky fabric itself.

For every such success, there are numerous embarrassing failures. British companies have to risk those failures and experi-

ment more. That may mean risking the wrath of the short-term investors in favour of the long-term health of the company. But just think, if companies had been daring to look beyond the next set of results, would so many now be facing horrendous bills for coping with the dawning of the year 2000?

The pound in your pension fund

Whatever he did for the markets, Mr Brown failed to perform a good PR job for pensions.

Back in 1967, Harold Wilson notoriously assured television viewers, in a prime ministerial broadcast, that the devaluation of sterling did not mean that the "pound in your pocket or purse" had been devalued. He was not

lying, though he was being economical with the truth.

Yesterday, Mr Brown told savers that "there is no need for anyone's pension to be affected" by ending relief from dividend tax and tax credits on dividends. Any idea that people would have to increase contributions to compensate is, the Chancellor insisted, "nonsense". Mr Brown was probably not lying either, but if not, he is plainly more of an optimist than we thought.

Perhaps he does not realise how suspicious ordinary people have become about private pensions.

After the Maxwell affair and the worrying publicity over mis-selling of personal pension plans in the early 1990s, people were already unsure whether it was wise to salt money away for so long on promises that might not be fulfilled. And those most unsure are those of modest means

for whom any pension contribution requires sacrifices in current consumption. They now have more to be anxious about.

The Chancellor plainly thinks that all pension funds are traditional occupational schemes in which an employer guarantees to finance pensions proportional to retiring employees' pay. His advisers, who know all about the realities of business life, told him these funds could afford a hit because their investment funds were rolling in surpluses.

There are such schemes. There are others where employers will meet their guarantee by contributing more. But 12 million people will depend on pensions that reflect only the returns on their investments: rising dividends and the rising asset values these justify. Part of their return will now go to the Treasury. So

their pensions will be lower unless they put in more money each month. And there will shortly be more of them. Yesterday, another big company closed its final salary scheme and shifted future employees into a money-purchase arrangement. Many more will now follow.

A chance to pool resources

Now that he has failed to sell Littlewoods stores and had his efforts to buy Freemans put on hold by the Monopolies Commission, perhaps James Ross will turn his restructuring energies towards the pools side of the business.

The pools currently feature in his definition of what is core to the Liverpool-based organisation. The stores, although he is now hanging onto them, are, apparently, not core, a status which must do wonders for morale within the business.

Morale can hardly be in top form over at the pools operation either. There had been hopes up on Merseyside that the Budget

might have included the odd nugget of compensation for the way the business has been decimated by the National Lottery, but, as lottery players rather than operators know only too well, there was no such luck.

Littlewoods, like its rival Vero, part of the Ladbroke Group, has seen its turnover cut by more than 60 per cent since the advent of the Lottery. It would make sense for the two to seek salvation together rather than to go on competing. Given the monopoly position of the National Lottery, it might be hard for Mrs Beckett to veto a merger as being anti-competitive. The two have sniffed around each other in the past. With both struggling, this might be the deal that the unfortunate Mr Ross could bring to fruition.

Rank bad news

THE consensus is that the consumer boom survived the Budget intact and retailers are looking forward to a bumper July, as the sales draw in customers. But, judging by the Rank share price, investors do not expect the spending to benefit the leisure group. He has sorted out the long-awaited Xerox deal but Andrew Teare, chief executive, has yet to convince the market that he knows what to do with what he has left.

BAA offers \$674m for duty-free firm

By CARL MORTIMER

BAA has launched a \$674 million tender offer for Duty Free International, a quoted American tax-free retailer.

The \$24-per-share offer, worth \$406 million, is recommended by DFI's board and will double the size of BAA's duty-free operation, creating the world's second-largest duty-free retailer, with sales exceeding \$1 billion. DFI will remain the world's biggest duty-free retailer.

Sir John Egan, BAA's chief executive, said that development of its World Duty Free business was part of its strategy of becoming the most successful airport company, but he added: "There is a defensive quality to this. It will enable us to preserve our margins if we lose duty-free in Europe."

The European Union intends to abolish duty-free sales by 1999 for intra-EU travel. Sir John said that BAA was

lobbying to keep the tax concession and he noted that duty-free sales to international travellers were a huge earner for luxury goods manufacturers in Italy, France and the UK. "I believe it will go right to the wire, it is a very popular thing," he said.

BAA shares rose 28p, to 600p, on news of the bid and relief that BAA had not suffered badly from the windfall tax announced on Wednesday. Sir John said the company expected the bid to be between £70 million and £95 million.

DFI operates 175 stores in the United States, with outlets in 14 international airports, including JFK and La Guardia in New York, as well as Chicago, Boston and Denver. More than half of DFI profits come from shops on the Mexican and Canadian borders and the company also runs in-flight duty-free shopping for several

US airlines, including Delta, United and Continental.

DFI made pre-tax profits of \$34 million last year, on sales of \$570 million. Sir John said that cost savings would be possible from combining the purchasing strength of both operations, pointing out that 1 per cent of the combined turnover could mean \$10 million to the bottom line. However, he emphasised that BAA intended to grow the DFI business by gaining access to other US airports and extending the in-flight and border-crossing operations to Europe.

BAA intends to pay for DFI from existing resources and said that it did not expect the deal to cause any material dilution of earnings. Gearing is expected to rise to 60 per cent after the takeover and payment of the windfall tax.

Tempos, page 28

Mackie investors back rights issue by new regime

By OLIVER AUGUST

MACKIE International, the troubled Belfast engineering company, yesterday persuaded shareholders to back its £5.25 million rights issue, despite calls for a Department of Trade and Industry inquiry into the group.

Paul Dougan, executive chairman, and Shaun Harrie, finance director, resigned from the company last month when it announced that the 1996 annual results had to be clarified. They originally showed pre-tax profits falling from £3.3 million to a pre-tax loss of £400,000, but now this loss has been deepened to £7.2 million.

Most of the extra losses have come from provisions covering Mackie's investment in and contracts with Uniware, a Belgian company. Many of the deals, booked with Uniware have not materialised. Shareholders are angry about

what had been said by Mackie in the past regarding Uniware and that the prospectus issued when the company floated in 1994 did not detail Mr Harrie's previous role as a director of the Delorean Motor Company, which controversially collapsed in the late-1970s.

Sul Sahota, the new chief executive, said: "The rights issue is designed to put Mackie on a sound financial footing. I am pleased that shareholders have supported the board's proposals to secure the future of the company."

Shareholders have now thrown their weight behind the new management plans which should see Mackie shares relisted today.

Brian Philips, chairman of the Mackie works committee, said: "We are in full support of the direction of the company under the new management."

B&W \$30m share of settlement

By JASON NISSE

BROWN & WILLIAMSON, the US tobacco arm of BAT Industries, is to pay \$30 million this month as part of the settlement of a legal action brought against cigarette makers by the state of Mississippi.

The payment is B&W's share of the \$170 million deal to settle actions brought by the state, which wants contributions to its bills under Medicaid, the US medical help system. This payment has to be made by July 15 and will be followed by further payments starting next year.

However a spokesman for BAT said that it was expected that the deal would be taken account of in the \$368 billion global settlement of all US state tobacco claims which was agreed with the Clinton Administration last month.

Prism Rail aims to start payouts as revenue rises

By ERIC REGULY

PRISM RAIL, one of the largest of the newly privatised train companies, is growing at 9 per cent so far this year and plans to pay its first dividend in December.

The company, whose services include the South Wales and West Railway and the London Tilbury Southend line, said that revenue growth has been strong because of promotions and innovations. For example, the TLS service, known as the "mystery line" for years, has put security guards on trains, which has brought the double benefit of increasing safety and reducing the number of fare dodgers.

Prism's passenger revenue grew by 7.5 per cent last year. Growth has since accelerated to 9 per cent.

For the 14 months to March 31, the company reported a

pre-tax loss after exceptional items of £5.5 million. Before exceptional items, including a £10.2 million cost to improve efficiencies and pay for redundancies in its four train-operating companies, the pre-tax profit was £6.9 million. Prism has shed about 300 jobs since April.

Bob Holmes, finance director, said that a capital reconstruction will allow the company to pay a debut dividend from profits earned since April. Without the reconstruction, dividends from the train-operating companies would have to be devoted to deficit reduction in the parent company.

The shares, which have been listed on the Alternative Investment Market for 14 months, rose by 18½p, to 298½p.

Tempos, page 28

Rhône-Poulenc accelerates the pace of its transformation

"To continue to strengthen its presence in life sciences, reinforce the improvement in the performance of its chemicals/fibers businesses and increase its strategic flexibility, we are studying two major potential initiatives which would mark a significant new phase in Rhône-Poulenc's development:

• Reinforce Rhône-Poulenc's position in pharmaceuticals through an increase in the Company's ownership of Rhône-Poulenc Rorer from 68.3% to 100%.

Rhône-Poulenc, with Rhône-Poulenc Rorer and Pasteur Merieux Connaught, already ranks among the leading pharmaceutical groups worldwide, and is one of the foremost groups in animal and plant health.

• Combine the chemicals and fibers & polymers businesses of Rhône-Poulenc to create a new company which would be listed in 1998, if market conditions permit. Rhône-Poulenc would retain substantial majority control of the new company.

Combining the chemicals and fibers and polymers businesses into a new company would increase technological, industrial and commercial synergies.

I am convinced that if we undertake these initiatives, we will enhance shareholder value for Rhône-Poulenc Rorer and Rhône-Poulenc."

Jean-René Fourtou
Chairman and Chief Executive

Rhône-Poulenc, one of the leading groups worldwide in life sciences and specialty chemicals,



contributes, through its innovations, to the improvement in health of men, animals and plants, as well as the quality and safety of products used in industry and daily life.

Financial implications of these operations:

• The Group would have only one publicly-listed life sciences company, Rhône-Poulenc.

• The net debt-to-equity ratio would be brought down to 60% by the end of 1998 and to 50% by the end of 1999 as a result of:

- the improvement in operating cash flow;
- the increase in equity;
- the capital raised by listing the new company;
- the divestiture of non-strategic assets.

• Rhône-Poulenc's objective remains to increase its earnings per share by 20% in 1997 and 1998, despite a slight dilution in the first two years and excluding exceptional items.

• The Group expects to maintain the 1997 dividend per share at a level at least equal to 1996.

If Rhône-Poulenc's Board of Directors decides to proceed with all or some of these initiatives, appropriate corporate approvals will be requested and required procedures with employee representatives will be observed.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Shares surge to biggest post-Budget increases

FOREIGN and domestic investors gave the thumbs-up to Gordon Brown's maiden performance as Chancellor and share prices celebrated their biggest post-Budget gains yet.

They took the view that the bad news and uncertainty overshadowing the market in the run-up to the Budget is now out of the way and took the market by storm. Share prices surged to yet another all-time high.

The FTSE 100 index confounded the experts by staging a 174.5 turnround to end the session 80.3 up at 4,831.7, supported by an opening 100-point rise in New York. That stretches its rise of the past three days to 227.1, or 4.9 per cent. To put matters in context, the FTSE 250 was just 3.9 higher at 4,475.2.

By the close of business 1.3 billion shares had changed hands. The market's volatility was compounded by reports of a massive bear squeeze that wrong footed several of the big security houses.

American investors led the charge, seeking out the high-yielding utilities and domestic companies with strong earnings growth such as the supermarkets, banks and oil explorers. Those feeling the cold were manufacturers and overseas exporters hit by the strong pound.

One of the worst hit was ICI, down 35p at 813p with a number of brokers considering a move to downgrade their profit forecasts. BZW was reckoned to be thinking of lopping £30 million from its £395 million forecast.

Other companies exposed to the strong pound included TI Group, down 32p to 479p, GKN, 49p to 959p, Hanson, 13p to 293p, Smiths Industries, 25p to 750p, and Slesbe, 3p to 994p.

Then, there are those companies underpinned by the pound's surge to new highs against the mark. British Steel fell 1p to 141p, RMC Group, down 37p at 934p, also has extensive interests in Germany as does Redland, 18p off at 318p. LucasVarity saw its price fall 5p to 202p.

The electricity companies were wanted for their dividend growth potential. National Power surged 35p to 569p, PowerGen 41p to 771p, ScottishPower 27p to 424p, Scottish Hydro 16p to 447p, National Grid 16p to 245p and Northern Ireland



Giles Fearnley, left, and Bob Holmes saw Prism Rail rise

Electricity 11p to 430p, while takeover favourite Southern Electric put on 25p at 461p.

Water companies with strong dividend cover were also chased higher. Anglian Water rose 15p to 724p, Severn Trent 21p to 860p, South West Water 25p to 760p, Thames Water 26p to 760p, United Utilities 33p to 722p, Yorkshire 25p to 436p and Wessex 20p to

452p. The exception was Hydrus, down 14p at 909p. Utilities to rise included BT, 22p to 479p, its share of the £4.8 billion windfall bid was £504 million.

The speculators remain convinced that a major takeover is in the offing among the banks, prompting more gains. NatWest rose 29p to 839p with a few hopes still alive that it may merge with Abbey

National, up 35p at 897p. Lloyds TSB was up 29p at 675p on claims it might bid for Nationwide Building Society. There were further gains for Barclays, 26p to £12.39, Royal Bank of Scotland, 19p to 607p, and Standard Chartered, 34p to 985p.

Midland Independent Newspapers firmed 1p to 188p. Mirror Group, up 2p at 186p, is poised to offer 200p a share plus.

Pilkington fell 8p to 127p despite the news that Paolo Scaroni, the new chief executive, has spent almost £3 million buying 2.2 million shares at 129p.

GEC stood out with a rise of 26p at 380p. Brokers expressed surprise at the timing of David Newlands' departure as finance director.

Prism Rail jumped 20p to 300p after producing pre-tax profits of £6.9 million, before exceptional, for a 14-month period. The group, whose chief executive is Giles Fearnley and finance director Bob Holmes and which operates four rail franchises, including LTS Rail, West Anglia Great Northern, Cardiff Railways and South Wales and South West, was pleased with progress. Godfrey Burley, chairman, said passenger revenues had grown 9 per cent during the first 12 weeks of the current year.

Speculative buying lifted Blocompatibles International 44p higher to £13.85. GILTED-EDGED: There was a marked flattening of the yield curve as the London market regained some of its composure on the back of firmer European bond markets. Prices across the board rallied from early lows but remained well down on Wednesday's closing levels.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt finished 1/16 down on the day at £141 1/2, after touching £113 1/2 earlier in the session. By the close a total of 135,000 contracts had been completed. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 ended 1/2 down at £102 1/2, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 finished 1/16 up at £107 1/2.

NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street moved sharply higher in a session sharply higher by the run-up to the Independence Day holiday. The Dow Jones industrial average, which stopped trading at 1pm local time, was up 100.43 points at 7,995.81.

Prism Rail, owner of four train operating companies including the London Tilbury Southern "merry line", was given free chances of survival. The non-believers said the company, a late arrival on the privatisation platform, paid too much for its networks. Later, Save Our Railways, a lobby group, predicted that three of the four Prism franchises were prime insolvency candidates.

Perhaps the sceptics spoke too soon. Yesterday, Prism revealed that passenger revenues climbed 7.5 per cent in the year to March 31 and have since accelerated to 9

per cent, enough for its franchisees to make profits. Cost-cutting, including a continuing redundancy programme that has avoided Stagecoach-style reductions, and clever ideas such as putting security guards on trains, which had the double benefit of boosting safety and scaring off fare dodgers, seems to be doing the trick.

But the challenges remain enormous. Passenger fares are regulated and generally do not rise as fast as the rate of inflation, and government subsidy falls over the life of the franchise licences. Making services faster, more reliable and more comfortable are the keys to success. Labour, which has no love affair with the automobile, may help. Ever increasing petrol taxes, excise duties and parking fees can only make train travel more attractive. Prism may never be the sector's brightest star, but the shares have potential.

EDITED BY CARL MORTSHED

MAJOR INDICES

New York: Dow Jones 7995.81 (+100.43) S&P Composite 916.91 (+12.58)

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 20,221.41 (+750.0)

Hong Kong: Hang Seng 13,855.74 (+141.09)

Amsterdam: EOX Index 897.10 (+18.00)

Sydney: All Ordinaries 2,742.41 (+30.3)

Frankfurt: DAX 3,867.39 (+52.63)

Singapore: Straits 1,942.40 (+6.57)

Brussels: General 1,407.10 (+18.48)

Paris: CAC-40 2,936.08 (+27.53)

Zurich: SMI Gen 1,187.40 (+17.80)

London: FTSE 100 4,831.7 (+80.3) FTSE 250 4,475.2 (+3.9)

FTSE All-Share 2,269.36 (+28.90) FTSE Non-Financial 2,284.15 (+23.50)

FTSE Fixed Interest 123.66 (+0.27) FTSE Govt Secs 96.96 (+0.16)

Bargains 5,900 S&P Volatility 138.38

US: Dow Jones 7,995.81 (+100.43) German Mark 2,493.1 (+0.04)

Exchange Index 101.5 (+1.8) Bank of England official base rate 1.48%

ESCU 1.9360 Lira 1,936.0

RPI 150.0 May (2.0%) Jan 1997-100

RPIX 150.3 May (2.5%) Jan 1997-100

RECENT ISSUES

Air 150p

Aldermore 125p

Almair Villu 840

Canadair 98p

European Mining 24p

Grosvenor Hides 3p

Grosvenor Hides Wires 1p

Heart of Midlothian 110p

Highland Timber 124p

Integrated as Mgt 125

Longbridge Int 117p

Norwich Union 280p

Powdermill Pharm 200

Primsight 140p

Reasbourne Merit 110p

Royalblue Group 309p

SBS Group 112p

SGR Group 155p

Versatile Group 3p

Waterfall Hides n/p

Waterfall Hides n/p

Waterfall Hides n/p

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TEMPUS

A duty to expand

EUROPE is not the only worry propelling BAA into the US duty-free market. The company yesterday admitted that the loss of duty-free privileges within Europe was a crisis for the business, although Sir John Egan insisted it also presented an opportunity. Duty Free International makes nothing like the colossal margins of BAA's own World Duty Free - the tax take in the UK leaves a much bigger hole for duty-free retailers to exploit. Finding enough new profit to fill the £50 million that BAA carries from European tax-free sales could take some time. However, DFI's profits are growing in leaps and bounds and the US business has yet to penetrate airports at Los Angeles, San Francisco and Miami.

Even at this price, the deal looks sensible. BAA is probably paying some 25 times DFI's forecast earnings in the current year but the

UK company had little choice but to pay a premium for a quoted competitor that instantly puts BAA in the number two slot worldwide and opens up new markets. Border shops have the attraction of lower overheads - airports charge high rents to duty-free operators - and the trend for airlines to shed non-core businesses is an invitation to retailers.

But the real issue here is volume and purchasing muscle. While BAA pushes its way to the forefront of the duty-free market, it has its eye on consolidation in a much larger market. The Guinness GrandMet merger is about the marketing power of huge brand portfolios; tobacco takeovers are also mooted. Those retailers who retain their margins in the face of such combines will be the ones with purchasing power, like BAA.

Water

NO MATTER how hard you push them down, the water companies keep hobbling back to the surface like inflatable beach balls.

Only hours after Gordon Brown had finished giving them an almighty thump in his Budget - the valuation seemed almost designed to punish the water utilities - the market has once again given the sector a new lease of life.

In Panglossian mode, the market seems to think that this windfall tax is the best of all possible outcomes: with the levy out of the way, water companies will continue to shed cash as never before. Hopes for aggressive growth in dividends are high along with expectations of a fresh round of share buybacks.

Credit Lyonnais Laing is flagging the strength of the

Water

sector, pointing to the removal of uncertainty. The broker believes that balance sheet strength of the sector will permit real average dividend growth of 10 per cent, a level sustainable until the year 2000 when the next price review will come into effect. The Chancellor may have secured £4.8 billion for the public purse but his tax was

not harsh enough to flay the utilities. The picture of investors rushing to buy into companies who are all about to part with hundreds of millions may well force the Government to take a tougher line on regulation. Labour made big political play of its intention to curb the excesses of utilities but the City is still laughing.

But the challenges remain enormous. Passenger fares are regulated and generally do not rise as fast as the rate of inflation, and government subsidy falls over the life of the franchise licences. Making services faster, more reliable and more comfortable are the keys to success. Labour, which has no love affair with the automobile, may help. Ever increasing petrol taxes, excise duties and parking fees can only make train travel more attractive. Prism may never be the sector's brightest star, but the shares have potential.

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FOOD RETAILERS LEAD THE WAY HIGHER

FTSE food retailers price index

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun

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Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun

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ECONOMIC VIEW

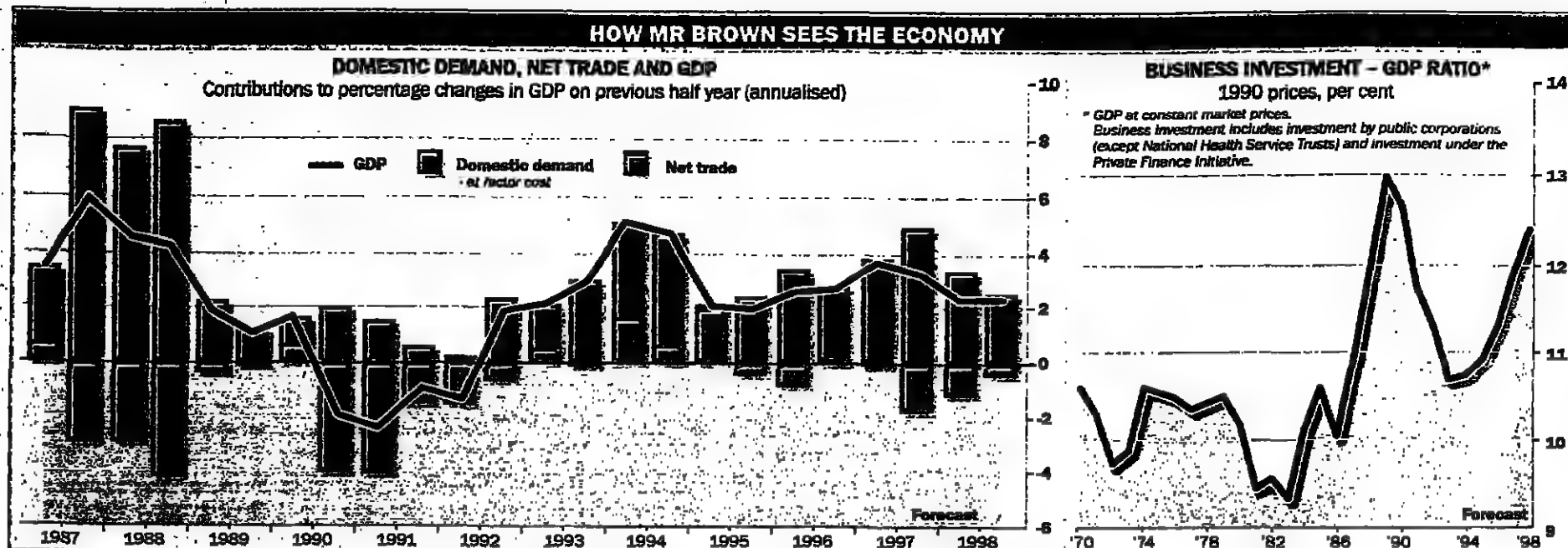
ANATOLE KALETSKY

Brown boxes clever but perils lie ahead

One of the oldest clichés in British political reporting is that Budgets that win instant praise lead to certain disaster. If this is the case, then Gordon Brown's effort on Wednesday should be followed by the ten plagues of Egypt. The media, City and voters were equally ecstatic. An instant poll by NOP found the public approved of the Budget by a four-to-one margin. Meanwhile, in the City the hubbub of panic buying by bullish investors completely drowned out the bitter lamentations of actuaries, economists and accountancy purists who were first ignored by Mr Brown and then utterly wrongfooted by the markets.

Should the public jubilation be seen as a bad omen? Yes and no. The bad news is that serious perils certainly do lie ahead for the British economy, particularly for manufacturers and exporters. The dangers can be summed up in one sentence: the pound has now broken its old ERM party of DM2.95. It will soon, I suspect, head much higher, especially since the Lawson experience of 1987-88 has made it unthinkable that Eddie George, of all people, would try to cap the pound "artificially" below DM3.

This further appreciation of sterling, which almost nobody in the City or industry is prepared for, will trigger large-scale losses and redundancies and inflict serious social hardship across swathes of old Labour's industrial heartland in the Midlands, Scotland and the North. Ex-



porting companies are in for a hard time. In the year ahead they will experience again many of the traumas they suffered during the ERM period and the Howe-Thatcher recession of 1980-81. Having handed power at exactly the wrong time to the Bank of England, Mr Brown must now bear direct responsibility for the exporters' travails.

Rather unattractively Mr Brown is trying to wriggle out of this responsibility. Yesterday, for example, he told a press conference that his Budget would help manufacturing investment and exports, that "nobody can be happy with the 18 per cent rise in the

pound" and that his "fiscal rebalancing will help get a stable, competitive pound". This is all humbug and Mr Brown knows it, as demonstrated by the economic forecasts he published with the Budget speech.

The forecasts show that the Treasury expects the policies announced this week to bear down on investment and exports, while leaving consumption almost untouched. Consumer spending is forecast to grow 4.5 per cent this year and 4 per cent in 1998. Meanwhile, export growth is expected to decline sharply while imports accelerate, despite the fact that

relative to the home market. The net effect, shown in the left-hand chart, is that the deteriorating trade performance will account for almost the whole of the slowdown in activity that the Treasury expects to see in the next 18 months. Mr Brown's passion for manufacturing investment is also belied by the forecasts. Although the Treasury publishes no detailed investment figures, its analysis is admirably blunt: "The high exchange rate is likely to hit profitability, especially in the traded goods sector, and lead some manufacturers to postpone investment plans." By contrast, investment in non-manufacturing businesses has been growing strongly and should continue to do so, maintaining the relatively high levels of overall business investment achieved in the Tory years (see right-hand chart).

The Treasury forecasts are likely, if anything, to prove overoptimistic about manufacturing and exports, since the pound will probably move higher and will certainly remain high for longer than the Treasury's mechanistic models of exchange markets suggest. This is extremely regrettable and will do grave damage to the British economy. The narrow question to discuss this week, however, is

whether the Budget has made matters better or worse. This is where we get to the good news. The Budget could have greatly exacerbated the squeeze on British industry if the Chancellor had followed conventional City wisdom and raised consumer taxes by £3 billion or even £5 billion. Such a squeeze would not have been remotely powerful enough, or quick enough in its effects, to deter the Bank from raising interest rates and thus bringing down sterling. But higher consumer taxes would have hit demand from 1998 onwards, adding to the pressures on British companies just when their export prospects

were being hit by the high pound. The greatest achievement of this Budget therefore was that Mr Brown has spared British industry from the triple whammy of high taxes, high interest rates and a high currency discussed in these columns during the past two months. At the same time, the Chancellor announced some modest but sensible reforms to Britain's public finances, above all the abolition of dividend tax credits and the simultaneous reduction of corporation tax.

Since these two key Budget decisions — the absence of any serious attack on consumption and the "raid" on the pension funds — were the features of the Budget most widely condemned in the City, I will devote the rest of this article to trying to explain why I think they were right.

Looking first at the dividend tax credit, two crucial points have been missed. The first point is that the British stock market's preoccupation with dividends is irrational and anomalous. According to figures supplied by Kevin Gardner, of Morgan Stanley, dividend yields in Britain at present average 3.6 per cent. The next highest yield in a Group of Seven country is 2.2 per cent in Italy and France. Thus, even if the dull 30 per cent value of the tax credit were taken straight out of the dividend yields, the London market would still offer by far the highest yields in the world.

The second objection to the pension funds' scaremongering relates to the way that actuaries value pension funds on the basis of arbitrary projections of future income streams. As a result all estimates of the solvency or otherwise of British pension funds

are pretty misleading. Yesterday, for example, Watson Wyatt, a leading firm of pension consultants stated that "from an actuarial point of view, Brown has wiped £70 billion off the assets of British pension funds". This comment was immediately belied by the surge in equity markets which added roughly £10 billion to British pension assets. Presumably investors had anticipated the cost of dividend reform (as well as the windfall tax) and these losses were already built into share prices. This kind of discounting is what capital markets exist for and if actuarial calculations do not reflect this, perhaps someone else should be given the task of valuing pension funds.

Now let us return to whether Mr Brown should have raised consumer taxes. It is perfectly clear from the Budget documents that Mr Brown's claims about a major "fiscal rebalancing to get a stable and competitive pound" are nonsense. Of the £3.4 billion in fiscal tightening this year, only £600 million comes from consumer taxes, with all the rest bearing on companies and pension funds. And although the abolition of dividend tax credits could eventually hit pensioners and employees, the idea that these changes could have any perceptible impact on consumption in the next 12 months is for the birds.

Why then do I reject the City view that Mr Brown should have been tougher with consumers in order to bring down the pound and "rebalance" the economy in favour of exports, in the style of Norman Lamont and Kenneth Clarke in 1993-94? Because the key to their success was the ability to time interest reductions precisely and to make sure the economy was reviving before taxes were raised. Mr Brown now has no comparable control. If he had raised consumer taxes in this week's Budget, he would simply have put the economic recovery at greater risk with no assurance that the pound would go down. A tax increase on Wednesday could simply have reinforced confidence in sterling and then crucified British industry through a simultaneous deflation of domestic and export demand. That was what happened in the 1979-81 and 1990-92 recessions. This time, at least, British companies that face hard times in their export markets should be saved from financial disaster by strong domestic demand. Perhaps that was the conclusion that stock market investors arrived at yesterday when, with some help from Wall Street, they cocked a snook at the actuaries and economists alike, and toasted Mr Brown with an all-time high.

Random 'ransom notes' tax developers

When Marylebone Warwick Balfour (MWB), a London property developer, spent £11 million on land in the elite suburb of Hampstead, social housing was not on the agenda. It wanted to create 63 apartments and one house, with a combined sale value of about £55 million, for the bankers and lawyers whose bonuses and salary rises are driving the capital's property boom.

Under pressure from Camden Borough Council, MWB has since had to give up a £750,000 slice of the site to a local housing association as a condition of planning consent. It will be used for affordable homes in a suburb where two-bed flats sell for £200,000 and much more.

The overlap of the two housing developments could well become the premise of a TV sitcom, but MWB and other property developers are not laughing. They claim they are on the wrong end of a system of planning control that allows local councils to fund housing and infrastructure projects by randomly taxing their endeavours.

While some developers hope their concerns will be addressed in the forthcoming Nolan Committee report on standards in local government, there are also fears that existing controls will be loosened. Up to a point, local authorities are well within their rights to ensure that a planned development contains some

sort of benefit to the community. The process has been called "planning gain", although this is a term that many dislike because it has been associated with some curious negotiations in the past.

In the early Nineties, for instance, J Sainsbury built a tourist information centre and even a birdwatchers' hide as part of a package that enabled it to secure planning permission for a new store.

The days of those kind of sweeteners being demanded — or offered — are over, according to Jane Blower, of J Sainsbury. "That will never happen again," she asserts. Local authorities must now adhere to new guidelines from the Department of the Environment in their planning dealings, spelling an end to the wish-lists of some.

They can now only ask for improvements — or "planning obligations" — when the project is unacceptable without them. The changes must also be directly linked to the development and its impact on the local community and environment, and be in keeping with the size of the project.

These obligations could include infrastructure improvements, such as road widening, the provision of extra bus shelters, cycle tracks or open spaces. Local transport schemes are increasingly winning funds in this way. There are also requirements for developers to include a social housing provision in schemes

Adam Jones reports on the deals landed on some companies by planners in exchange for consent



Some developers hope Lord Nolan will tackle the issue

above a certain size. Whatever the demand, the department's guidance note on the matter states: "To retain public confidence, such arrangements must be operated in accordance with the fundamental principle that planning permission cannot be bought or sold."

The disagreements continue. Sainsbury's has had battles over council-requested infrastructure improvements that the supermarket chain thought were opportunistic. MWB grudgingly paid Lam-

beth Borough Council £100,000 in order to secure planning permission to convert the old Nazi building in Kennington, south London.

The money is going to pay for affordable housing projects elsewhere in the borough.

Richard Balfour-Lyon, a director of MWB, said the company does not object so much to the principle of a developer's contribution.

In areas like Camden or Lambeth, there is a genuine need to prevent locals from being priced out of the market

as the pool of available land shrinks. Mr Balfour-Lyon said: "We object to the random nature of the amount." He said developers can buy land having been told no provision for social housing will be required, only to be hit subsequently.

McCarthy & Stone, the developer of homes for the elderly that is based in Bournemouth, is strongly opposed to some requests that local authorities continue to make on "new-build" projects.

Gary Day, a McCarthy & Stone planning consultant, said one council was now looking for financial contributions to cycleways from prospective developers. "Our residents of sheltered housing tend not to like bicycles," he said.

Mr Day said one sheltered accommodation application would have entailed £100,000 in off-site contributions, embracing new bus shelters, pedestrian crossings and a contribution to the local dial-a-ride scheme. Another council is asking for contributions to closed-circuit television surveillance.

Developers argue that the competition for sites is so fierce in the current property market that these sorts of demands have to be met. The local authorities can afford to dictate terms. "They know they are in a strong position at the moment," said Mr Day.

Developers also say the appeal procedure against council demands to the De-

partment of the Environment is too slow, taking a year or two in some cases, and acts as a deterrent to any challenges.

Some argue that there is often an intrinsic environmental and social benefit in old or dilapidated buildings being improved, before any extra money is given to the council.

Local authorities, in their defence, have been hampered by government restrictions on housing spending.

Tony Rich, of the Local Government Association, said the great majority of planning obligation demands were entirely benign. Councils in areas with depressed investment or a weaker property market have not been able to play hardball with the developers.

Mr Rich thinks the Nolan Committee, which has quizzed John Gummer, the former Environment Secretary, on planning gain, could make the negotiations between local authorities and developers more public, discouraging strong-arm tactics on either side. At present, only the final outcome must be published.

The extent to which Nolan will be able to make any radical changes is questionable, however. The committee's brief is to examine standards in public life. The issues raised by planning gain, or planning obligations, go right to the heart of changes in the way that local government is funded, a far wider topic that is set to be an even bigger poser for the new Government.

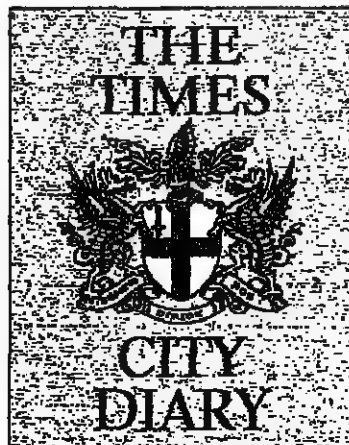
Sachs appeal

AT LAST the epic battle over Simon Robertson, former boss at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, is over. As I suggested earlier this week, speculation that another big German investment house, Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, was about to hire him are wide of the mark.

Instead he is indeed joining Goldman Sachs, the American investment bank. And what a job. No salary, but you can guess: more to the point, he becomes a partner, and rakes in the real money, from

December 1. Speculation last night was that his early promotion might have had something to do with the vigorous attempts by DMG to hire him away from Goldman, the original front-runner.

DMG's failure will be welcomed at Kleinwort, anyway. I am told feelings were running high there about the loss of such a high-flyer, even one they themselves threw out, to another German house. As it is, I believe the word is Schadenfreude.



Damn rotters

AND you thought British Rail was bad: Alicia Weston, Asia spokeswoman at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, and analyst Yeow See Yuen were on a business trip to The Netherlands yesterday. After some indecipherable Dutch squawks over the Tannoy, they boarded the empty Amsterdam train at Rotterdam. The train stopped a mile away. They admired the landscape. "Then this other train pulled in to the siding and parked, and there was no one on it either," says Alicia. So they tried the doors. Locked. They went for the driver. No one on board. Alicia rang DMG from the ghost train on her mobile. Traders in the dealing room were less than sympathetic — actually, they were still falling about with laughter when they rang me about it half an

hour later. The police were called. Finally someone from the Dutch rail company came to free them.

Burmese daze

A PRINCIPLED stand from Burton Group, which yesterday instructed its suppliers to place no more contracts for goods sourced from Burma, or Myanmar, as the military rulers of that benighted country prefer it. This follows the arrival of a few shirts made there at Burton shops and a number of letters from a well-organised protest group.

Very laudable, but human rights purists might wonder if the Burmese regime, awful though it is, is that much worse than, say, the Chinese, which uses slave labour to produce export goods, or its genocidal equivalent in Indonesia. Meanwhile cynics might wonder if the announcement is designed to pre-empt last night's hostile *Nationwide* programme about Burmese factories that make clothes for the British high street.

ANY truth in rumours that a certain securities house has dropped £100 million on equity derivatives after the market's carousels of recent days? The City believes so, and so do I, although I am not supposed to reveal which one, not least because there may be several more. One British house has already denied it. But rumour says somebody's equities book might have as many holes as a Swiss cheese. And those holes might

be big enough to cause concern at Threadneedle Street.

Cat flap

THERE is no doubt that the new head of the Welfare to Work task force in Scotland will take a particularly keen interest in the job. After all, he is one of the utilities fat cats who will have to pay for it. Ian Robinson, chief executive of ScottishPower — the multi-utility that is going to have to shell out £320 million in the windfall tax — yesterday started work putting his money to good use.

MARTIN WALLER



Ian Robinson: paying the piper and also playing the tune on Scottish task force

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Ramsden's serves up increase

Harry Ramsden's raised pre-tax profits to £202,000 from £169,000 in the six months to March 31 on sales up from £1.98 million to £2.52 million. The fish and chip restaurants group raised earnings from 1.3p to 1.5p, out of which a maintained dividend of 1p a share will be paid.

John Barnes, chairman, said that seven restaurants were opened in the period, including franchised outlets in Singapore and Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Three more restaurants have opened since March, he said, making this a record year for new openings.

Hays acquires

Hays, the office support services company, paid £11.3 million for Paperstream, the payment processor. The deal will enhance earnings this year. Paperstream's pre-tax profits were £1.2 million on sales of £14.7 million in the year to March 31. It was part of Southern Water's billing department, sold after the takeover of Southern by ScottishPower.

Universal fall

Shares in Universal Salvage fell 6p to 117.5p after the motor salvage group's pre-tax profits fell 26 per cent to £3.42 million in the year to April 30. Sales were £57 million (£46 million). Earnings were 8.35p (11.05p). A 3.55p final dividend gives a total of 5.2p (5.07p).

Mowlem buys

John Mowlem, the construction company, is paying Northumbrian Water £4.05 million for Exploration Associates. It provides geotechnical and environmental services and had turnover of £13.5 million in the year to March 31.

CRH invests

CRH, the building materials group based in the Republic of Ireland, yesterday said it had completed acquisitions and investments of £1.48 million in the first six months of 1997, partly offset by divestments of £1.29 million.

Electricity watchdog may cut bills by 10%

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ELECTRICITY bills could fall by £27 next year because of fresh price controls being considered by the industry regulator ahead of the introduction of a competitive market in household power.

The prospect of a 10 per cent cut in domestic bills to make an average of £238 a year was raised by Stephen Littlechild, the industry regulator, in the latest round of his review into the pricing restraints that operate on the supply side of electricity.

It has also emerged that customers excluded from next April's phased start of the open market will be in line for rebates from their regional electricity companies.

Prospects of electricity price cuts next year come as fears circulate among consumer groups that companies will seek to pass on the bills for windfall tax through prices by trying to negotiate leniency in pricing reviews.

Professor Littlechild has previously told the Trade and Industry Select Committee that he would listen to such arguments but that he would have to be persuaded that the companies' financial ability to fulfil licence obligations had been affected.

Price restraints will be imposed on regional suppliers — who at present enjoy monopolies — for their supply operations once the market has begun to open.

Professor Littlechild has based the amount of the cut in bills on an expectation that prices in the pool — the wholesale market for electricity — will tumble by between 4 and 12 per cent over the next three years. He has also anticipated that supply business costs could be further cut by about 1.5 per cent a year.

Competition in domestic electricity, which has been dogged by delays and unrest within the industry, is scheduled to start in the spring in a

phased programme although only three of the 14 companies have so far said that they are ready to start on time.

The regulator had originally wanted competition to start in one clean move but bowed to pressure from regional electricity companies who argued that such a start would be too ambitious and would threaten administrative and technical chaos.

Professor Littlechild is planning that a percentage of revenue from the electricity companies is fed back in the form of a rebate to customers unable to join the competitive market. Competition will be introduced on a postcode basis. The rebates will apply for each month that customers are unable to shop around for their electricity.



Joel Cadbury, right, Ollie Vigors, left, and Alex Langlands Pearse sold the Goat in Boots pub — a popular haunt for Sloanes — for £1.5 million

Cadbury proves a chip off the old block

By DOMINIC WALSH

JOEL CADBURY, 25-year-old scion of the chocolate family, is quietly proving that business is in his blood.

Together with Ollie Vigors and Alex Langlands Pearse — his partners in a company called Longshot — Mr Cadbury has just sold a pub and club business in Fulham Road, south London, for £1.5

million compared with the £140,000 they paid for it two years ago.

The Goat in Boots pub, a popular haunt for Sloanes, and the adjoining members-only Kings Club have been sold to Pemberton Group, the AIM-listed former Courtyard Leisure, in which Robert Earl, the restaurant billionaire, has a stake.

As part of the deal,

Longshot will continue to run the site, where turnover has quadrupled to around £2 million over two years, under a management contract. It is receiving £433,000 of the sale price in the form of Pemberton shares and the two companies are expected to develop further business opportunities together.

Longshot, which was founded in 1994, owns

London eateries SWX1 and Vingt-Quatre, a 24-hour concept that may be developed into a chain on the back of the Goat in Boots sale proceeds.

Mr Cadbury, who is Longshot's chief executive, needs to look no further than his parents for entrepreneurial inspiration. His father, Peter, a cousin of Dominic Cadbury, Cadbury Schweppes chairman, was

head of the Keith Prowse ticket booking agency for 17 years until 1971. And his mother, Jennifer d'Abo, masterminded the flotation in 1986 of Ryman, the high street stationery retailer.

Despite Longshot's rapid growth, Mr Cadbury has no plans to take it public. "We've got money in the bank, and we're doing very well as a private company," he said.

Tradepoint short of target despite rise

By ADAM JONES

THE number of deals struck on Tradepoint, the electronic market set up to compete with the London Stock Exchange, increased in the first half of the year, but remain a long way behind break-even targets.

Tradepoint was forced to raise £775,000 in interim funding through a placing with existing shareholders last month.

Yesterday the loss-making exchange announced that it handled trades worth £418 million in the first six months of 1997, compared with £153 million in the same period last year. June proved to be a record month for Tradepoint,

with 463 trades worth £97.6 million, an average of £4.6 million a day.

However, the exchange requires £50 million a day in traded volume to break even.

It set itself the target of breaking even by the end of the year, but will face a new challenge when the Stock Exchange unveils its own order-driven trading system in the autumn. Tradepoint is seeking at least £6 million in long-term financing.

Stephen Wilson, an executive director, claimed yesterday that Tradepoint users were "consistently able to deal at better prices". Tradepoint shares closed unchanged at 70p.

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هكذا من الأرض



FILM
Mitchum and Stewart: great stars, but how much did they actually act on camera?



THEATRE 1
Good to talk, better to act: BT's National Connections brings youngsters to the stage

THE TIMES ARTS



THEATRE 2
Queen Lear: Kathryn Hunter makes gender irrelevant in a superb portrayal of the tragic monarch



RADIO
John Inverdale, reporting tax changes between forehead volleys, illustrates Radio 5's dilemma

They all play their part

Benedict Nightingale analyses the differing demands of stage and screen

A centipede was once asked how he was able to walk, and was thrown into such confusion and self-doubt by the question that he never walked again. I have often seen a similar fear on the face of actors whom I have quizzed about their craft. If they try to explain what to them is largely a mystery, they may cripple their ability to perform.

But when two screen centipedes as accomplished as James Stewart and Robert Mitchum disappear into the history books within two days, the question has to be asked, again. How did they make acting look so easy? How did Mitchum grip us with that hooded charisma, and Stewart effortlessly radiate that gawky decency? Were they simply being themselves in fictional circumstances that required only minor adjustments of mood? Were they, indeed, acting at all?

Some would argue not. The American critic George Nathan said that an actor's performance on screen bore the same relation to a performance on stage as a hiccup to Camille's consumption.

Josef von Sternberg wrote that film actors appear to move and speak by themselves, seem to be "self-determining units of intelligence", but are actually "dolls", "dummies" that require more manipulation by a director than a clockwork duck. He claimed to have turned Marlene Dietrich from an awkward amateur into a profoundly mysterious siren by asking her to count to six and stare at a lamp-post.

Sternberg was, of course, an arrogant dictator and Dietrich not exactly a versatile performer; but it must be admitted that screen production is much more hostile than stage production to complex character acting.

Rehearsals usually consist of a brief chat with the director and one brisk run-through. When shooting occurs, the performers are surrounded by wire, cameras and sound equipment, plus odds and bobs doing such things as



Above, James Stewart on his way to being a really nice guy with Donna Reed in *It's a Wonderful Life*; below, Robert Mitchum gets unusually nasty in *Night of the Hunter*



running forward to powder their faces between takes. Directors and film editors have far more control over the way actors project to the audience than they themselves do.

Moreover, screen actors have less chance to range than their stage counterparts. They are more obviously stuck with their own faces, bodies and, to a large extent, personalities. If they apply make-up and adjust their body language to suggest age, disease or even emotional change, they look phoney. The camera tends to make anything except the most literal performances seem artificial. When Lau-

rence Olivier played Othello on stage, he seized and inhabited his audiences' imaginations. When he gave the same performance on the screen, he was an embarrassing ham in blackface.

Occasionally a great film actor — Marlon Brando, Orson Welles, maybe Robert De Niro — can achieve the otherness a good stage actor would take for granted. But you seldom see transformation on the screen you could call daring, let alone radical. For an actor, it is more a case of restraining his more adventurous impulses and bolder gestures, and hoping that

simply being the person he is will be performance enough. As Peter Ustinov once said to an over-busy player: "Don't just do something, stand there."

This hardly demands the complex skills one associates with Olivier, Ralph Richardson, Ian McKellen or Vanessa Redgrave at their theatrical best. But it requires more than Mitchum modestly suggested when he said he had only two styles of acting: on and off a horse.

When David Hare was directing his *Licking Hitler*, he had trouble with a stage actor who looked like a stiff in a

mortuary. Asked why, the actor replied: "I'm told film acting is about doing nothing." Hare's reply was that there was a difference between doing nothing and thinking nothing.

"The camera loves intelligence," Hare writes. "It loves to detect what's behind the face." Add "sensitivity" and he is surely right. He is equally right to pick Redgrave as an actress who has made an especially successful transition from the all-encompassing challenges of the theatre to the quiet demands of film. In *Playing for Time*, in which she was a Jewish musician in a Nazi death camp, she opened her imagination to the character's predicament, and the pain, grief and horror were in her eyes.

How does she do it? She says that, instead of worrying about complex psychological patterns or the cause and effect of character, she reacts to situations "immediately, unquestioningly and trustingly". That was also the approach recommended by Michelangelo Antonioni, who said that film actors should not plan a part, but simply "let the imagination reveal itself spontaneously"; and he directed some fine screen performances.

But this sort of acting demands great confidence, which needs moral and emotional strength, and a rare ability to relax, which needs physical strength too. Were those the fundamental qualities that allowed Stewart to radiate such intensity of curiosity in *Rear Window* and Mitchum to bring such coldness to *Night of the Hunter*? We can only guess. The mystery remains.

Youth is taking over the National Theatre next week

Do put your daughter (and son) on the stage

On a wet June Sunday in Peckham, south London, 12 young people rehearse a brand new play by Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka. The run-through is a bit rough around the edges: it is ten weeks since the last performance, we are being deafened by a thunderstorm, and one of the actors has severe laryngitis. Nevertheless, excitement and energy fizz. For this production of *Travel Club and Boy Soldier*, featuring a group of 11 to 18-year-olds from the community arts venture, Peckham New Varieties, has been chosen for this month's celebration of youth theatre at the National Theatre.

It has taken two years and £400,000 of sponsorship to reach this final stage of the BT National Connections showcase. Twelve established writers — the poets Simon Armitage and Liz Lochhead, author of *The Krys* Phil Ridley, and prizewinning playwright David Ashton among them — were each commissioned to write a new piece for a young cast. Ten regional theatres, from Belfast to Clwyd, Chichester to Plymouth, Plymouth to Inverness, worked in partnership with 150 groups of young people, and each production was assessed by NT representatives.

Three quarters of them were presented in regional showcases. Suzy Graham-Adriani, the NT's administrator of the project, says that "every single regional partner has done more than was required". Asked to mount two productions each, they all presented at least eight.

Last Christmas all the directors — mostly youth leaders and teachers — went on a "retreat" with representatives from the NT and some of the writers for a brainstorming weekend. The groups had already chosen their plays from synopses giving details of cast and set requirements and, sometimes, warning of strong language. Everyone had to undertake to respect the text. Graham-Adriani says that they were able to recruit such high-calibre playwrights "because they

know we are careful about their work". But the writers have been accommodating, finding "creative alternatives" where expression was too colourful for comfort. Ashton even rewrote bits of his play, *The Golden Door* (about an outcasted tribe, for a church group, saying he perfectly understood.

While these particular writers deal with everything from bullying to homelessness, drug-taking and child abuse (as well as friendship

emperor, turn to cannibalism, has received some unwelcome press attention. Graham-Adriani defends the piece vigorously: "More Light is a beautiful play. Given a plot description, who would think *Oedipus* was suitable for teenagers? But that's a set book."

Sometimes the language itself presents a challenge. Armitage's strange and magical *Eclipse* could only have been written by a poet; absolute precision is required in speaking the rhythmic lines.

Soyinka's play, too, has its difficulties for modern schoolchildren. The language is formal, clever, middle-class, typical of a public school debating society. Pupils on a school journey in the South Seas are caught up in a political coup and, although the situation is frightening, they score points off each other and the 15-year-old soldier who has them in his power.

Many writers have travelled the country to see productions of their plays. Ashton says: "I always have a pow-wow about the play and I have found the casts delightful, cheeky, funny, thoughtful and intelligent."

Ridley has turned his own painful childhood experience of bullying to good account in *Sparkleshark*, and he has taken a particular interest in East End and Belfast productions, where racial and sectarian tensions and the need to build community add a dimension.

Trevor Nunn, the NT's incoming artistic director, believes this contact with writers and theatre professionals is valuable training for the 6,000 directors and young people who have taken part. "Everything BT Connections does is very important to my objectives over the next five years. It reaches out regionally and to young people of whatever race, religion, background or creed."

HEATHER NEILL

● The 12 plays will be performed over six days, two each evening from 7pm in the Cottesloe (July 6, 10, 11 and 12) and Olivier (July 14 and 15) theatres (0171-428 2252)

Kathryn Hunter is a woman, Lear the elderly father of three, and Helena Kaut-Hawson's production, first seen at the Leicester Haymarket, famously casts the one as the other. This is certainly a theatrical innovation, at least in Britain, but the transgender aspect can be overemphasised and has already led to pointless speculation. Since Fiona Shaw has recently played Richard II, are we witnessing the start of a new trend? Which black actress will be the first to play Othello?

Who can answer these mighty questions? Better to note that the word "actor" has long since lost its exclusively masculine gender, and consider what the actor Hunter achieves, for this is momentous. Her voice does not beat against the roof in the storm scenes, and I suspect it may not be up to doing so. But such suspicions are irrelevant because she builds the performance on a different structure, and the rewards come plentifully in the closing scenes, when the king flickers in and out of madness. Here Hunter finds for him a kind of divine grace.

The production has lost some of the nursing-home preliminaries that disoriented some of my colleagues at Leicester. We still see Hunter being pushed on to the stage in a wheelchair, bald, shrunken, virtually dead to the world, while doctors

Mother of all fathers

King Lear
Young Vic

and ancillary staff attend to other terminal cases in the background. But there is no clear indication that what follows is the nightmare of a neglected parent, although the programme still draws this parallel.

With her strange, wizened features and parchment skin, Hunter sometimes looks like Max Wall; at moments even the Alec Guinness of *The Lady Killers* without those terrible teeth. There is a puckish amusement in this elderly baby's face: fingers twitch excitedly as Hunter hobbles towards Cordelia, fondly confident of even more love and cherishment. "Noth-

ing will come of nothing," is spoken as a caring parent might say it, explaining an error, not stamping on an offender.

Except for some of the asides muttered by Marcello Magni's Fool the verse speaking is clear and intelligent. Kaut-Hawson has had to redirect her production to fit the Young Vic's very different stage, where actors can emerge from all corners, and she achieves a particularly fine tableau at the height of the storm with Lear, his Fool and Kent huddled together, staring horrified at the writhings of Simon Roberts's Poor Tom.

Interesting behaviour is also occurring on the periphery of the action. Crooked in the shadow of a barrel, Magni listens to yet another of Lear's tirades against his daughters, and the expression on his face tells you how well he can read the future.

Hunter's gravely, wavering voice is able to stir the heart from the moment Lear's plight sets him thinking of other people. In the final scenes, decked with flowers or dressed in a white robe, the voice is that of a little, old and trembling creature, now briefly comical, now piercing in the pain of its hard-won wisdom. The sex of the actor is immaterial before such capacity to reach the core of an experience.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Budget inflation

is a Brit who had won three tennis matches in succession. Indeed, it was such a close call between Brown and Henman that Radio 5 Live's coverage of the two was actually titled *Wimbledon 97* and the Budget, a programming conjunction that satirists would have been struggling to beat.

Henman won his fourth-round match 45 minutes before Brown was due on court at Westminster, which made the balancing act of John Inverdale, 5 Live's presenter, easier than might have been the case.

The potential listener's job was not made easy at all. The listings gave little clue as to what kind of Budget coverage

might be expected from Radios 2, 4 and 5 Live. Nothing in *Radio Times*, for example, indicated that the actual Budget speech would only be on Radio 4, with Radios 2 and 5 Live taking highlights interspersed with comment from experts.

I listened to the Radio 4 coverage of the speech itself, because I do not like radio producers deciding on my behalf what I need to hear. I occasionally switched to 5 Live, where Inverdale was manfully alternating between mortgage interest relief and forehead passing shots.

Listeners who missed the daytime live coverage could have tuned in during the late evening. At 10pm Radio 4 had

The World Tonight, more than half of which was about the Budget, followed at 10.35 by Brown's Budget statement.

Radio 5 Live was not, of course, about to lie down and roll over, so at 10pm it had two hours of Budget appraisal in Vincent Hanna's *Budget Night*, the first 45 minutes of which overlapped with the Radio 4 coverage.

The root of the problem here is a dilemma that arose when 5 Live was launched, as to which BBC network is supposed to be the market leader in current affairs. Radio 4 is determined to hold that title against all comers, but 5 Live is the dedicated sport and news network and is particularly dedicated to proving itself best at the job. Most listeners will wish the umpire would make a decision soon.

PETER BARNARD

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| £ 50,000+ | 5.46 | 4.37 | 5.46 | 4.37 |
| £ 25,000+ | 5.13 | 4.10 | 5.13 | 4.10 |
| £ 10,000+ | 4.79 | 3.83 | 4.79 | 3.83 |
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POP 1

Primal Scream go heavily into the dance scene, with psychedelic overtones, on *Vanishing Point*



POP 2

... while Brian Eno offers a glacial voyage towards the cutting edge on *The Drop*



POP 3

Refreshed by the Sex Pistols reunion, John Lydon takes the *Psycho's Path* on a new solo album



POP 4

His 'harmolodics' may baffle, but saxophonist Ornette Coleman is still able to blow hot and bold

Trust your Bobby on the beat

POP ALBUMS:

Primal Scream's leader still can't sing for toffee, but David Sinclair is hep to the groove

PRIMAL SCREAM

Vanishing Point (Creation CRECD 178 £13.99)
IT WAS no accident that Primal Scream ended up playing their set in the Dance Tent at Glastonbury last weekend. With their new album, *Vanishing Point*, the Glaswegians have returned to the dance/rock fusion which they pioneered with such intriguing results on their 1991 album *Screamadelica*. Their singer and leader, Bobby Gillespie, has not entirely shaken off his fixation with the past, but whereas Primal Scream's previous album, *Give Out But Don't Give Up*, aped the straight rock'n'roll of the Rolling Stones circa 1972 with slavish devotion, *Vanishing Point* is a more free-ranging, experimental project with strong psychedelic overtones: not so much *Exile on Main St* as *The Satanic Majesties Request* completely retooled for the post-rave era.

The biggest problem remains Gillespie's feeble voice, a combination of wavery pitch and gossamer-thin tone that slides away from the note like butter off a hot knife, and singularly fails to do justice to tunes such as *Out of the Void* and *Star*. But the album boasts some tremendous grooves, often enhanced by an imaginative choice of instrumentation. The seductive, film-noir melody of *Get Duffy* is carried by a bass clarinet; a tooting melodic line up *Star* and there is an arresting synth and sitar joust on *If They Move, Kill 'Em*, a wonderfully funky instrumental which sounds a bit like the *Mission Impossible* theme played on Ecstasy.

Despite Gillespie's shortcomings as a performer, *Vanishing Point* is a rare and inspiring example of a group successfully finding its way back from the safety of the retro-rock ticket to a place close to the cutting edge, and doing so with considerable style and conviction.



"A free-ranging, experimental project with strong psychedelic overtones": after the failed *Give Out But Don't Give Up*, Primal Scream are back on form with *Vanishing Point*

BRIAN ENO

The Drop (All Saints Records ASCD32 £14.49)
ONE of the few musicians who is able to describe his own work almost as well as a music critic, Brian Eno has characterised *The Drop* as "what you might expect from sketchily describing modern jazz to a person who'd never heard it and who then forgot most of what you said and tried to play it anyway."

Frankly, that gives an impression of this album as being rather more of a lark than it actually sounds. From the brief, rhythmic, tonal soundbites with titles such as *Slip Dip* and *But If* that preface the album, to a final, 32-minute-long systems piece called *Lead World* for piano and shimmering electronic rhythm track, *The Drop* is a collection of carefully assembled, ambient/instrumental doodles that proceed with an airless and utterly glacial calm.

Eno may be on the brink of something new here, as he has been so often in the past. But while it is one thing to admire the questing spirit of *The Drop*, there is a cold, eerie quality (what he calls "sour-

ness") to this music that makes it difficult to love.

BLUES TRAVELER
Straight On Till Morning (A&M 540 750 £15.49)
WHILE their last studio album, *Four*, sold six million copies, comparatively few of those passed over the counters of record shops in this country. Like their fellow Americans the Dave Matthews Band and Hootie and the Blowfish, Blues Traveler is one of those groups that combines superlative musicianship with ultra-conservative production values in a way that seems slick and meaningless to British ears.

The group is primarily a vehicle for the virtuoso harmonica playing of John Popper, and he certainly piles up some awesomely complicated phrases with an amazingly fleet touch, especially on the jazzy *Justify the Thrill*. But the unnecessarily convoluted lyrics — "Perhaps in time I could surpass my coy facade

of vast indifference" — coupled with the progressive rock pretensions of numbers such as *Felicia* and *Business as Usual* quickly become wearying, while Popper's tendency to sing like Cat Stevens, notably on *Canadian Rose*, does not weigh in the band's favour either.

JOHN LYDON

Psycho's Path (Virgin Records America 7243 8 44209 £15.99)
A MAN of many parts, none of which quite fits, John Lydon follows up the unabashed nostalgia of the Sex Pistols reunion with the novel approach of his first solo album, *Psycho's Path*.

Left entirely to his own devices, Lydon produces a batch of songs that are more thoughtful and personal in tone than was typical of his work with either the Pistols or Public Image Ltd. "I'm never happy with what surrounds me," he sings on *Sun*, an appealing, lolling riff

which Lydon performs on an assortment of toilet-paper rolls, cardboard boxes and an accordion which, by his own admission, he can hardly play.

Despite the rather eccentric arrangements, Lydon actually makes his most concerted effort yet to sing, as opposed to the shouting and ranting that has been his stock-in-trade over the years. Sounding like David Thomas of Pere Ubu on the funky *Another Way* and the languorous *A No and A Yes*, he allows a rare sense of personal weakness to creep into the lyrics — "You see these problems and faults in you/I know they're there, I got them too" — although he would doubtless pass off such sentiments as simple role playing.

With dance remixes of various tracks by the Chemical Brothers, Leftfield, Moby and Danny Saber also included, *Psycho's Path* not only sounds remarkably current but also has something original to say.

Original creative process

■ EVAN PARKER
ELECTRO-ACOUSTIC
ENSEMBLE

Toward the Margins (ECM New Series 1612 453 514-2)
ALTHOUGH ECM is not generally readily associated with freely improvised music, UK saxophonist Evan Parker appeared on the label's fifth release in 1970, and has maintained a close relationship with both his producer here (Steve Lake) and label-boss

JAZZ ALBUMS:

Manfred Eicher ever since. This project involves Parker's regular trio with bassist Barry Guy and percussionist Paul Lytton, but assigns each group member a "processor" who both treats his assignee's music electronically and produces live electronic sounds of his own.

The results, which fully utilise the various instrumental combinations available, range from brooding, multi-textured meditations, through squalls of scabbling improvisation, to intriguing explorations of the relationship between the original improvised sound and its processed equivalent. Absorbing, innovative and wholly original music.

■ NEW YORK JAZZ
COLLECTIVE

I Don't Know This World Without Don Cherry (Naxos Jazz 86003-2)
EXPANDING its budget-priced (£4.99) classical operation to jazz under the artistic direction of New Zealand-born pianist/composer Mike Nock, Naxos has assembled many of New York's finest for this session, one of six label-launching issues. Nock wanted "independent musicians with roots both in the new music and the tradition", and his front-line choice, multi-reedman Marty Ehrlich, trombonist Frank Lacy and trumpeter Baikida Carroll, certainly bring considerable soloing strength to their leader's tricky compositions, even if some of their theme-statements are a little sour.

Overall, then, this is an adventurous, richly varied but thoughtful set of band originals, with Ehrlich, as ever, stealing the show with his peerless versatility and inventiveness.

CHRIS PARKER

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | (-) The Fat of the Land | Prodigy (XL Recordings) |
| 2 | (1) OK Computer | Radiohead (Parlophone) |
| 3 | (2) Heavy Soul | Paul Weller (Go! Discs/Island) |
| 4 | (6) Before the Rain | Eternal (EMI) |
| 5 | (4) Spice | Spice Girls (Virgin) |
| 6 | (3) Destination Anywhere | Jon Bon Jovi (Mercury) |
| 7 | (5) Timeless | Sarah Brightman (Columbia) |
| 8 | (8) Middle of Nowhere | Hanson (Mercury) |
| 9 | (7) Always on my Mind | Elvis Presley (RCA) |
| 10 | (12) Shogun | Skunk Anansie (One Little Indian) |

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Figures in brackets denote last week's position

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JUST ANNOUNCED
CHAKA KHAN &
TONI BRAXTON
BRINGING THE BILL TO
NINE OF TODAY'S
TOP ARTISTS

CHANGING TIMES

JAZZ: No longer must Ornette Coleman plough his furrow alone. Alyn Shipton reports

Coleman teamed with a partner of notes

For someone every bit as influential in jazz history as Miles Davis or John Coltrane, the free jazz saxophone pioneer Ornette Coleman remains a contradictory and often misunderstood figure. His Texan origins are wrapped up in myths like those that Bob Dylan created around himself, and his theory of "harmolodics" is incomprehensible to all but his closest associates.

For 20 years he has divided his playing life between acoustic quartets and his electric band Prime Time, coupled with intense productivity as a composer for everything from symphony orchestras to solo instrumentalists. His current appearance at La Villette in Paris coincides with the first radical development in his playing career for years, the formation of a duo with the pianist Joachim Kühn, and the release of their first album, *Colors*, next week.

Coleman has a symbolic importance for Kühn, who was born in Leipzig. "When I was 14 I first heard his music in East Germany," says Kühn. "He played jazz without chord changes, and his freedom of expression really meant something to us. I knew I wanted to spend my life with this man's music, but it's taken 40 years for us finally to work together."

Kühn's own performances are among the most unpredictable of any European free improviser. He lives and plays close to the edge, freely admitting that for him, life itself is an improvisation. The alternating violence and compassion in his playing interlocks with Coleman's unconventional tonality and melodic ideas. After rehearsing six of Coleman's new pieces for several days before their Paris appearance, Kühn says he felt encouraged to play more freely than ever.

Coleman himself seems every inch the seasoned jazz musician, a long way from his iconoclastic image. Softly spoken, a leather pork-pie hat jammed on his head, he sports a remarkable suit adorned with buttons in the unlikely places. His conversation, rather like his playing, is a startling mix of direct penetrating observations



Ornette Coleman and Joachim Kühn mix well on some primary *Colors*

and the bafflingly obscure. It takes only a few minutes before he starts banging on about harmolodics, yet despite his unorthodox views on musical notation he neatly sidesteps every direct question about his compositional method: "I try to communicate a musical philosophy which is that if Joachim can do better, he has the right to change it."

Just as Coleman appears to be drifting off into a discussion of how the same note possesses different sound qualities according to how it is notated (a key principle of harmolodics), his eyes suddenly snap open, and he starts a detailed discourse on the state of improvisation in jazz.

"Most jazz musicians follow maps to improvise," he says. "The right setting or framework for someone's imagination to work is as important as the imagination itself. My theory of harmolodics is about understanding the repetitions in playing, but making the notes creative, going through the maze to allow the individual to express freely their personal or collective thoughts."

Why, then, would Coleman seek to work in a duo with a pianist, using the very instrument that seems the antithesis of his principles of freedom?

"It's because Joachim doesn't play like a conventional pianist. He's almost a symphonist — all the parts he plays seem orchestrated. He doesn't play a supporting role, simply an equal one. The way he plays and the way I write

fitted naturally. It's good that we made a record so people can hear structure, hear jazz, hear free music and hear composition in our playing."

Coleman turns every question round to suggest that his answer is what "you" think. He seems happier to talk about Kühn rather than himself. So when the mask slips it comes as a surprise. He always knew, he says, from the time a nightclub stabbing

"I knew I wanted to spend my life with this man's music"

made him give up tenor and play the unfashionable alto, what kind of music he would play. When he told his mother, she asked acidly: "Do you think people are going to pay you for your soul?"

It still hurts him that in his early days as an innovator, musicians he respected put down their instruments and walked off stage when he went to sit in with Clifford Brown's band, but he has learnt to be philosophical about it: "They didn't like what they didn't know."

When success eventually came, Coleman is quick to deny its importance. "It was just the opportunity to have a job. My early records were not what I think of as success. What I want to do all the time is things that I find interesting, musically, philosophically and religiously. People think that those who are called artists are somehow in a different category. I'd aspire to every-one being able to aspire to what is called art."

Colors is released on Monday by Verve Records



■ POP 6

THE TIME POP ARTS



POP 7

 **TOMORROW**

Diana Ross
reviewed as
she opens her
new British
tour, and the
weekend listings

Alan Jackson, a worried man, looks at the current chart supremacy of the Angry Young Women, and their forebears

That its catalogue of the many moods and roles of everywoman (everyperson, if we accept Brooks's premise) has been so emphatically well-received suggests that it captures a certain spirit of the times: that it defines its audience's own would-be self-image as compellingly as did two other comparable

‘In the short term it is the loud and proud who capture the attention’

Reddy, meanwhile, was clever enough to make the burgeoning women's liberation movement palatable even to the almost exclusively male hierarchy dominating American radio in the early 1970s. "I am woman, hear me roar/in numbers too great to ignore," she sang prettily and, when rewarded with the Grammy for that year's Best Pop Vocal Performance, Female, thanked God in her acceptance speech: "because She makes everything possible." But these days, few would think of Reddy as one of the music industry's suffragettes; her message, such as it was,

"I will wash the dishes, while you go have a beer," she then sings bitterly, the Chevrolet having long since been sold to absorb the financial impact of another baby, and two sets of dreams having been traded with it. "Where is my John Wayne?" is her summery lament in each chorus. "Where is my prairie sun? Where is my happy ending? Where have all the cowboys gone?" Comparable to Mary-Chapin Carpenter's *He Thinks He'll Keep Her* of three years ago, the power and resonance of Cole's song come not



In the short term, though, it is the loud and proud which captures the most attention. Brooks's lyric seems, perhaps deliberately, so simplistic to me, and lazy: it offers

no light and shade, just blocks of primary emotional colour, and presents its singer in a smug, self-justifying way. That said, it adds up to a superbly marketable piece of product: I can imagine women singing it to themselves, or aloud, and feeling empowered in a way

that they would not be singing *Where Have All The Cowboys Gone* or any of the tracks on Shawn Colvin's excellent current album. *A Few Small Repairs*, a textbook example of how to write honest, self-analytical songs. That is Brooks's success then, and

● *Blitz* by Meredith Brooks is released here as a single by Capitol/Parlophone on July 21; an album, *Blurring The Edges*, will follow. *Where Have All The Cowboys Gone?* is on Warner Brother.

Thankfully, this year Glas-
tonbury turns into the Lost
City of Atlantis. The creatively
named Other Stage starts to
sink, cancelling appearances
by Divine Comedy, Kenickie
and Sneaker Pumps. Record
company executives bark into
mobile phones, demanding
that hapless secretaries "bike
down" pairs of Barbour
wellies "double quick"; and
small hippy children, sus-
pended in mid-air, are

Glastonbury '97: you just had to be there. You, 90,000 others, and no social butterflies getting stuck in the mud

world. Standing on a stage in front of 60,000 cold, muddy, disgruntled Prodigy fans, Pennis sings in Hebrew. When the Prodig's Maxim eventually returns to the stage, he self-righteously bellow's "Nothing.

In time, the mud becomes stickier yet slipperier. A French artist is sitting in the Stone Circle, wired to the moon and agog at what lies

huffs, incorrectly. "You're rubbish at throwing mud." On the word "mud", a particularly fulsome sausage hits him right in the crotch. Not even a small lima-bean of the stuff is hurled at Radiohead, however, who headline to 60,000 fearful

at it to watch the seahorses.

11/27/2014 2:10 PM

Up in the Green Fields, the hot cider man is now selling cups of Souvenir Glastonbury Mud in sealed cups for 10p. I send one to Tara Gucci-Shoes. Rich-Dad, with a note explaining that it's incredibly important that she and her "chum," never come to Glastonbury. They have the Cafe de Paris, and we have a field full of mud and magic. It would be unseemly for them to gatecrash Quornfest 1993.



Exactly what it is that makes the Blue Nile so special, so magical, is hard to pinpoint. Why does the Muna Lisa's smile beguile? One can but stare in awe and wonder.

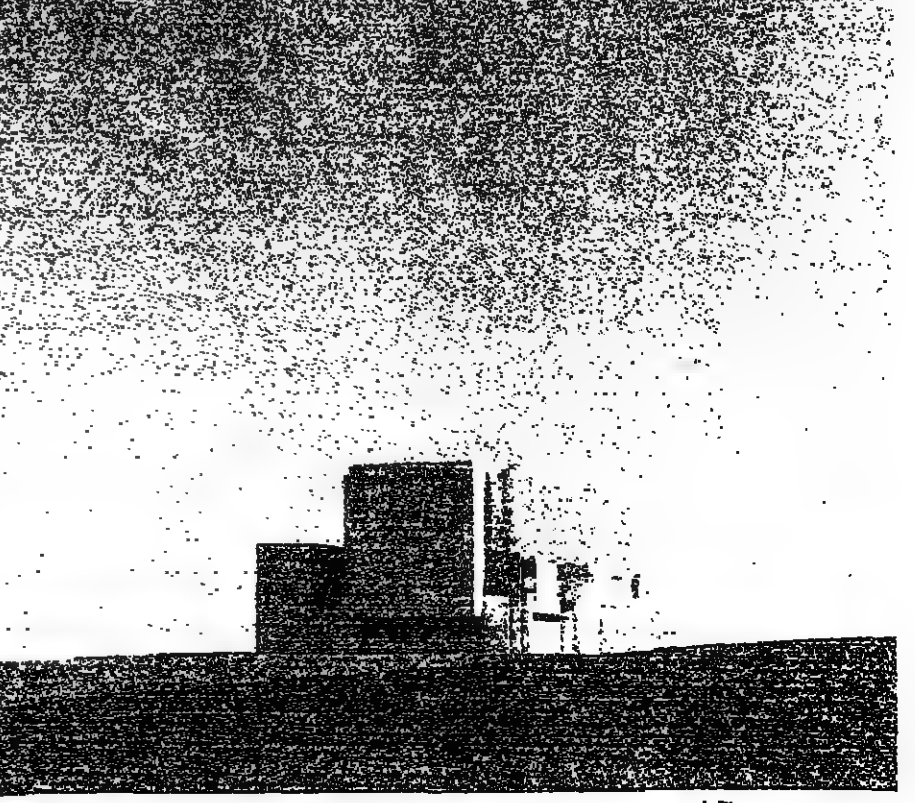
Lead singer Paul Buchanan's lyrics are often observa-

CONCERT

The final encore, a mesmerising cover of the old standard, *I Left My Heart in San Francisco*, would have brought Tony Bennett himself to his feet. It certainly brought the Olympia crowd to theirs.

NICK KELLY

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CHOICE 1

English Heritage's concert season at Kenwood Lakeside begins tomorrow

VENUE: Kenwood Lakeside, near Hampstead Heath

CHOICE 2

Alison Steadman joins the Peter Hall Company in *The Provoked Wife*

VENUE: Opens tonight at the Old Vic

THE TIMES ARTS

CHOICE 3

Gala fundraiser: Sir Edward Heath conducts the English Chamber Orchestra

VENUE: Tomorrow in Salisbury Cathedral

DANCE

The stars step out for a gala to mark the 50th anniversary of the Royal Ballet School

DANCE: Debra Craine reports on the Royal Ballet School's golden gala at Covent Garden

Madam's butterflies

Annual school performances are always a time for celebration. But this year's Royal Ballet School performance had more to celebrate than usual. It is 50 years since Dame Ninette de Valois's tiny school moved to its present site in west London, from where it established itself as one of the world's leading training institutions. And it is also the start of de Valois's centenary year — a year which ends with her 100th birthday next June. So Tuesday's golden jubilee was quite rightly dedicated to the formidable woman fondly known as Madam.

David Bintley's *Le Festin de l'araignée* (The Spider's Feast), was his founder. Set to the Royal Ballet's 1947 ballet score, it gave the students a suitable if slightly predictable vehicle to show off their skills as entertainers. Rousset's allegorical insect world is rich with character, but Bintley gave his cast of Mayflies, Caterpillars and Wasps too little detail to play with in the choreography. Ruari Murchison's witty costumes helped enormously: the Caterpillars were dressed like Cio-Cio-San; the Wasps like First World War airmen. The set, with its gigantic white wicker chair and soft green backdrop, suggested a peaceful garden in which human beings are comfortably oblivious to the life-and-death struggles taking place in the grass. Bintley's choreography also sought to challenge the physical



Miniature world: the Mayflies in David Bintley's new ballet *Le Festin de l'araignée*

Puzzled in the park

THE ways of opera companies are indeed weird and wonderful. European Chamber Opera's *Pasquale* is sung in Italian of varying degrees of comprehensibility — the cast is entirely English-speaking. I could detect no plane-fuel of Italian tourists flooding into Holland Park on Tuesday, and anyway the Royal Borough's Libraries and Arts Services are presumably catering for audiences nearer home. With the best will in the world, these modestly gifted soloists are not about to be flown out to Bologna to substitute for ailing locals, so that's no excuse. Can anyone explain this bewildering *détour*?

The lack of communication between stage and auditorium naturally had its effect on Jamie Hayes's perky production: to prevent communal slumber, he

had to rely on visual diversion rather than old-fashioned words and notes. The programme said that the opera was set in Rome, but the action opened with Pasquale reading a London newspaper dating from 1963 with headlines about the Profumo scandal. As far as I could tell, this heralded no interesting dramaturgical subtext, merely an excuse for Norina and her circle to sport garish 1960s frocks, not all of them flattering to the wearers, and for the designer Will Bowen to decorate his neatly organised set with icons from the period — Guevara, Ringo Starr, Roy Lichtenstein et al.

Lack of communication was tacitly admitted in the use of extras: on the whole the main characters addressed their big solo numbers to other people on stage, not out to us. Alan Fairs started out promisingly as a bald, tweedy Pasquale — everyone's favourite uncle — but couldn't quite surmount the problem of having to turn into a completely different character in the

second act, with purple velvet trousers, red shoes and a mangy wig. Naomi Harvey's brittle, commanding Norina failed to suggest much warmth of heart, and without that the action becomes creepier than it should be. The best singer on stage was Jeffrey Stewart, who has done valuable work for ETO and Opera North, but his brash, graceless and at times ill-tuned delivery of Ernesto's music should have been prevented.

The conductor Jonathan Tilbrook beat time efficiently without quite suggesting what it was about this glorious score that he wanted to communicate to an audience. But the audience seemed to love it all, so I'd better crawl back under my stone.

RODNEY MILNES

LONDON

KENWOOD LAKESIDE Hsiao, Diana Weller conducts the National Symphony Orchestra in the opening concert of the season. The programme includes music by Shostakovich, Tchaikovsky and Liszt. The evening ends with a Second Hungarian Rhapsody (with fireworks). English Heritage Ticket Line (0171-413 1420/04 4444). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

THE PROVOKED WIFE Michael Pennington and Victoria Hamilton play St. John and Lady Brute, with Alison Steadman as the hapless heroine. The musical debut of the duo, in a production by the Royal Opera House. Covent Garden, WC2 (0171-304 4000). Tomorrow, 7pm, and July 5, 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

THE ROYAL BALLET A morel ballet, featuring the Royal Ballet School's 50th anniversary. The programme includes music by Shostakovich, Tchaikovsky and Liszt. The evening ends with a Second Hungarian Rhapsody (with fireworks). English Heritage Ticket Line (0171-413 1420/04 4444). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

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Factors in sentencing for burglary

Regina v Brewster
Regina v Thorpe
Regina v Ishmael
Regina v Blanchard
Regina v Woodhouse
Regina v H (R)

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill,
Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice
Maurice Kay and Mr Justice
Timothy Walker

[Judgment June 27]

Domestic burglary was, and always had been regarded as a very serious offence. The seriousness of the offence could vary almost infinitely from case to case and sentences tended to reflect that.

Lord Bingham of Cornhill so stated when delivering the reserved judgment of the Court of Appeal on six appeals brought with leave of the single judge and heard together. All the appellants had pleaded guilty to offences of domestic burglary in having entered as trespassers with intent to steal or having entered, had stolen.

Five of the appellants all appeared against prison sentences: Alex Edward Brewster aged 51, against nine years; Denise Thorpe, aged 33, against four years; Mark Ishmael, aged 32, against four years; Wayne Blanchard, aged 25, against two and a half years; and Michael Charles Woodhouse, aged 49, against two years. H(R), who was 15 at the time he committed four burglaries, was sentenced to four years detention under section 53(2) of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933.

Mr Giles Tippet for Brewster, Mr Timothy Becker for Thorpe, Mr Gareth E. Morley for Ishmael, Mr Martyn Levett for Blanchard, Mr Nicholas Hamblin for Woodhouse, Mr Peter I. Clark for H(R), all assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals; Mr David Lacey for the Crown.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that the offences referred to in section 9(1)(a) of the Theft Act 1968 were: stealing anything in the building, or inflicting grievous bodily harm on or raping any person in the building, or doing unlawful damage to the building or its contents.

Where the building was a dwelling house, the maximum sentence was 14 years imprisonment.

For aggravated burglary where the burglar had with him a firearm or imitation firearm, or an offensive weapon or any explosive, and for robbery involving the use or threat of force, the maximum sentence was life imprisonment.

Noteworthy was the fact that in 1991, when the maximum penalty for non-domestic burglary was reduced to 10 years, the maximum penalty for dwelling-house burglary was left unaltered.

His Lordship reviewed the current pattern of offending and sentencing and continued that the prison population was growing rapidly. From a total of 48,000 in April 1994, it had climbed to nearly 61,000. Some 10,000 of them were domestic burglars.

As to the framework of sentencing, by section 1(2)(b) of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, the court could not ordinarily pass a custodial sentence on an offender unless it was of the opinion that the offence, or the combination of the offence and one or more offences associated with it, as defined in section 31(2), was so serious that only such a sentence could be justified for the offence.

That test had been criticised as imprecise, which it was; but it was not easy to devise a more satisfactory yardstick. Lord Bingham said that the court was not required to pass a custodial sentence even when the criterion of seriousness was satisfied.

In considering the seriousness of the offence the court was permitted by section 29 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 to take into account any previous convictions of the offender and any failure to respond to previous sentences and it required the court to treat commission of the offence while on bail as an aggravating factor.

The prevalence of an offence had been held to affect its seriousness and was legitimate to consider in determining a custodial sentence's length: *R v Cunningham* [1993] 1 WLR 1839.

When a court was sentencing a young offender, almost always it would be appropriate to impose a shorter sentence than would be imposed on an adult, and a deterrent sentence on a young offender might be imposed provided it was commensurate with the seriousness of the offence.

Under section 48 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 a court deciding sentence on an offender who pleaded guilty was required to take into account the stage in the proceedings at which the offender indicated his intention to plead guilty and the circumstances in which the indication was given.

As to the offence, domestic burglary was and always had been regarded as a very serious offence. Even when it did not involve considerable loss the victim, might lose possessions of particular value to him or her.

Insured financial compensation did not replace what was lost. Uninsured victims because they might have fewer possessions, were more seriously injured by the loss of those they had.

The loss of material possessions was, however, only part and often a minor part of the reason why domestic burglary was a serious offence. Most people legitimately attached importance to the privacy and security of their own homes.

That an intruder should break in or enter for his own dishonest purposes left the victim with a sense of violation and insecurity. Even when the victim was unaware at the time that the burglar was in the house, it could be a frightening experience to learn that a burglar had been in the house, all the more frightening if the victim was in the house when the burglar took place and if the intrusion took place at night.

That did not mean the offence was not serious if the victim returned to an empty house during the daytime to find that it had been burgled.

The seriousness of the offence could vary almost infinitely from case to case. It might involve an impulsive act involving an object of little value, reaching through a

window to take a bottle of milk, or stealing a can of petrol from an outhouse.

At the other end of the spectrum it might involve a professional, planned organisation, directed at objects of high value, or the offence might be deliberately directed at the elderly, the disabled or the sick, and it might involve repeated burglaries of the same premises. It might sometimes be accompanied by acts of wanton vandalism.

The offender's record was of more significance in the case of domestic burglars whose records showed that, from an early age, they had behaved as predators preying on their fellow citizens, returning to their trade almost as soon as each prison sentence had been served. Such defendants had to receive substantial terms of imprisonment.

There were, however, other domestic burglars whose activities were different in character, whose careers might lack any element of persistence or deliberation. They were entitled to more lenient treatment.

Domestic burglars were drug addicts who burgled and stole in order to raise money to satisfy their craving for drugs. Self-induced addiction could not be relied on as mitigation.

Generally speaking, domestic burglaries were the more serious if they were of occupied houses at night; the result of professional planning, organisation or execution; targeted at the elderly, the disabled and the sick; if there were repeated visits to the same premises; if they were committed by persistent offenders; accompanied by vandalism or any wanton injury to the victim; shown to have a seriously traumatic effect on the victim; if the offender operated as one of a group; if goods of high value, whether actual or sentimental, were targeted or taken; if force was used or threatened; if there was a pattern of repeat offending.

It mitigated the seriousness of the offence if the offender pleaded guilty, particularly if the plea was indicated at an early stage and there was hard evidence of genuine regret and remorse.

Their Lordships had been referred to a large number of sentencing decisions on domestic burglary over the past 20 years. *R v Edwards*; *R v Brandy* (The Times July 1, 1996), if read more literally than the court intended, could be understood as making too sharp a distinction between occupied and unoccupied houses and its pointing towards what might in some cases be too low a level of sentence.

An overall survey of the cases showed:

1 Burglary of a dwelling-house, occupied or unoccupied, was not necessarily and in all cases an offence of such seriousness that a non-custodial sentence could not be justified.

2 The decision whether a custodial sentence was required, and if so the length of such sentence, was heavily dependent on the aggravating and mitigating features and, usually, to a lesser extent, the personal circumstances of the offender.

3 The courts, particularly the higher courts, had generally reflected in their sentences the abhorrence with which the public regarded those who burgled the homes of others.

His Lordship then turned to detailed consideration of the individual appeals and stated that in each case the appeal of Brewster, Thorpe, Ishmael, Blanchard and Woodhouse was dismissed.

As to H(R), to describe his personal history as tragic was an understatement. He had become addicted to crack cocaine. With hesitation and anxiety their Lordships had concluded that the case was so exceptional that the interests of justice tipped the scales in favour of quashing the sentence and substituting a supervision order.

No one should interpret the judgment as detracting from the general rule that there was no mitigation in drug addiction as the motivation for crime. Their Lordships were also conscious of the fact that H(R) had served the equivalent of a four-month sentence.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Headquarters.

Popat v Shonchhatra
Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Evans and Sir Ralph Gibson

[Judgment June 25]

The capital and revenue profits of a partnership that were realised after its dissolution were divisible equally between the partners pursuant to section 24 of the Partnership Act 1890 and not in shares corresponding to the partners' respective shares of the capital of the partnership as at the date of dissolution.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Rajendra Popat, against part of the judgment in favour of the defendant, Dinesh Shonchhatra, by Mr David Neuberger, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Chancery Division (The Times May 4, 1995; [1995] 1 WLR 908).

Section 24 of the 1890 Act provides: "The interests of partners in the partnership property and their rights and duties in relation to the partnership shall be determined... by the following rules: (1) All the partners are entitled to share equally in the capital and profits of the business, and must contribute equally towards the losses."

Mr Aditya Kumar Sen for the plaintiff; Mr Marc Beaumont, who did not appear below, for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that the parties were in partnership together in the business of a newsagent from September 1989 to January 1990. The business was carried on at leasehold premises, the lease having been assigned to the partners in joint names, together with fixtures and fittings and the goodwill of the business.

The cost of acquiring those assets was funded by bank loans and by £4,504 from the plaintiff and £23,064 from the defendant. £2,700 of the plaintiff's contribution was funded by a loan from the defendant.

The partnership was at will and, as determined by the plaintiff on January 10, 1990. Thereafter the defendant carried on the business on his own and in July 1990 purchased the freehold of the premises.

His Lordship did not consider that, without evidence, there could be any ground for proceeding for a person's identity merely because he or she was a transsexual.

News Group were right to ask his Lordship to intervene and to do so by becoming a party to the proceedings. The appeal in respect of which he had made a restricted reporting order was not one which permitted the making of such an order.

Solicitors: Ms Gillian Phillips; Wapping; Cheyne Goulding, Guildford; Tyndallwoods, Birmingham.

Regina v Rigg

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Evans and Sir Ralph Gibson

[Judgment June 25]

Although head-butting did not technically involve the use of a weapon, the head was nonetheless a dangerous and effective substitute for a weapon and a very serious view would be taken of using the head in such a way.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Justice McCowan and Mr Justice Sedley) so held on May 15 in allowing an appeal by Kenneth Mark Rigg against a

sentence of 30 months imprisonment imposed in December 1996 by Judge Holman at Manchester Crown Court on his conviction of unlawful wounding contrary to section 20 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861. The sentence was reduced to two years.

LORD JUSTICE MCCOWAN said that the court took a very serious view of head-butting and also of such attacks against a publican who had the task of

clearing his public house at closing time without any trouble. However, in *R v Clarke* ([1992] 13 Cr App R (S) 640), a similar case, a two-year sentence was reduced on appeal to one year.

Their Lordships thought Clarke had been fortunate indeed in his final sentence but accepted that the case provided some assistance to this appellant and with some hesitation were prepared to reduce his sentence by six months.

Lord Justice Evans and Sir Ralph Gibson agreed.

Solicitors: Simmons, Borehamwood; Seymour Major & Co, Walsworth.

Using head as a weapon

In re A v B, Ex parte News Group Newspapers Ltd

Before Mr Justice Morison

[Judgment June 27]

A restricted reporting order made by the President of the Employment Appeal Tribunal in an appeal from a decision of an industrial tribunal upholding a complaint of sexual harassment by a transsexual was discharged on the application of a newspaper group on the ground that it was not made within the statutory jurisdiction of the appeal tribunal.

Section 31(2) of the Industrial Tribunal Act 1996 defined the circumstances in which a restricted reporting order forbidding the press from publishing anything which might reveal the identity of the parties named in the originating application could be made by the appeal tribunal.

namely, on appeals from an industrial tribunal's grant or refusal to grant a restricted reporting order or appeals from interlocutory decisions of the tribunal where the tribunal had made such an order, and that since neither circumstance applied in the present case the order should not have been made.

Mr Justice Morison so held at the Employment Appeal Tribunal on an application by News Group Newspapers Ltd on February 24, 1997, with regard to a complaint of sexual harassment by the ap-

plicant, A, against her employers, B, which had been subject to a restricted reporting order before the industrial tribunal and also on appeal.

The ground of the application was that the appeal tribunal did not have the power to make such an order in the circumstances of the case.

Ms Gillian Phillips, solicitor, for News Group; Mr John Bowers for the employers; Ms Stephanie Harrison for the applicant.

MR JUSTICE MORISON said that there were several questions to be addressed:

Were the press entitled to make representations to the appeal tribunal about a restricted reporting order and if so in what circumstances?

What was the proper construction of section 31(2) of the 1996 Act? Whether the appeal tribunal had an inherent power to make an order.

Whether the decision of the industrial tribunal on the complaint was interlocutory and whether the appeal tribunal's order should be discharged.

Whenever the press wished to make representations about a gagging order made by the appeal tribunal, it should apply to be joined as a party. The application would not be automatically granted. A good case for joinder would have to be made.

Of the appeal tribunal's own vision in respect of similar offences.

Miss Clare Montgomery, QC, for Mr Gilmore; Mr John Hardy for Mr Ogus; Mr James Lewis for the secretary of state.

LORD JUSTICE PILL said that the United States government sought the extradition of the two applicants for conspiracies to defraud and in commit offences under the 1968 Act. The issue was whether these named offences of conspiracy were extradition crimes.

It was first contended by Mr Lewis that the offences of conspiracy had always been extradition crimes within Schedule 1 of the Extradition Act 1970. That Schedule, as amended by the Schedule to the Extradition Act 1973 and Schedule 2, Part II to the 1968 Act, included offences under the 1968 Act, but not conspiracy to defraud or to contravene the 1968 Act contrary to section 1(1) of the Criminal Law Act 1977, as substituted by section 5 of the Criminal Attempts Act 1981.

Mr Lewis had argued, relying on the words of Lord Diplock in *Re Nielsen* ([1984] 1 AC 606, 615A), that the words of Schedule 1 to the

motion, News Group Newspapers had been joined as a party at the outset of the proceedings and in those circumstances Mr Harrison's submission that the press had no standing to make submissions became unsustainable.

The natural reading of section 31(2) was that it defined the circumstances in which the Employment Appeal Tribunal Rules (SI 1993 No 2854) might provide for the making of a restricted reporting order.

Parliament had authorised rules to be made which permitted a restricted reporting order to be made in those circumstances which section 31(2) had specified: appeals from a tribunal's grant or refusal to grant a restricted reporting order or appeals from interlocutory decisions of the tribunal where the industrial tribunal had made such an order.

Neither of the two circumstances in which there was power to make a restricted reporting order obtained.

There was a good argument for saying that the appeal tribunal had an inherent power to make a restricted reporting order. But if, as his Lordship believed, Parliament had weighed the circumstances in which it would be appropriate to make a gagging order, it would be unjustified resorting to an inherent jurisdiction to extend those circumstances.

On the issue of the nature of the relevant definition of "extradition crimes" must now be in either the Anglo-American Treaty, or Section 2 of the 1989 Act. That submission failed because the procedures of the 1970 Act were preserved by the 1989 Act.

The relevant definition of "extradition crimes" in paragraph 20 of Schedule 1 to the 1989 Act was to be construed, according to that paragraph, by reference to the relevant Order in Council under the 1970 Act, which was the 1976 Order as it had effect immediately before the coming into force of the 1989 Act. Paragraph 3 of that Order provided that the 1970 Act should apply as amended and extended by subsequent enactments.

The Treaty was not freed from the 1970 Act and could limit but not extend the Schedule 1 list. Parliament intended Schedule 1 of the 1970 Act to continue to have effect after the 1989 Act came into force.

The relevant applications would be allowed and the orders to proceed quashed.

Lord Justice Asill agreed.

Solicitors: Reynolds Dawson; Thanki Noy Taub; Treasury Solicitor.

until that had been clarified the newspapers she represented would not report the names.

His Lordship did not consider that, without evidence, there could be any ground for proceeding for a person's identity merely because he or she was a transsexual.

News Group were right to ask his Lordship to intervene and to do so by becoming a party to the proceedings. The appeal in respect of which he had made a restricted reporting order was not one which permitted the making of such an order.

Solicitors: Ms Gillian Phillips; Wapping; Cheyne Goulding, Guildford; Tyndallwoods, Birmingham.

But for the fact that the industrial tribunal made a further order when it announced its decision purporting to protect the identity of the parties, the press would have been able to have given a full report of the proceedings. The question of the effect and lawfulness of that order had not arisen for argument.

Ms Phillips had accepted that the relevant definition of "extradition crimes" must now be in either the Anglo-American Treaty, or Section 2 of the 1989 Act. That submission failed because the procedures of the 1970 Act were preserved by the 1989 Act.

The relevant definition of "extradition crimes" in paragraph 20 of Schedule 1 to the 1989 Act was to be construed, according to that paragraph, by reference to the relevant Order in Council under the 1970 Act, which was the 1976 Order as it had effect immediately before the coming into force of the 1989 Act. Paragraph 3 of that Order provided that the 1970 Act should apply as amended and extended by subsequent enactments.

The Treaty was not freed from the 1970 Act and could limit but not extend the Schedule 1 list. Parliament intended Schedule 1 of the 1970 Act to continue to have effect after the 1989 Act came into force.

The relevant applications would be allowed and the orders to proceed quashed.

Lord Justice Asill agreed.

Solicitors: Reynolds Dawson; Thanki Noy Taub; Treasury Solicitor.

which was section 371 was a procedural section not designed to affect substantive voting rights or to shift the balance of power between two equal shareholders, in a case where they had agreed that power should be shared equally and where the potential deadlock was something which had to be taken to have been agreed on with the consent and for the protection of each of them.

Similarly, there was no power under section 371 to override a potential deadlock at board or general meeting level which had to be taken to have been imposed with the consent and for the protection of the two equal shareholders.

The judge had no jurisdiction to regulate the affairs in the way he did.

Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Phillips agreed.

Solicitors: Davis Blank Furniss, Manchester; Taylors, Blackburn.

Mr Lander relied on what he called the principle of the thing,

'Offence' does not include conspiracy

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Gilmore and Another

Before Lord Justice Pill and Mr Justice Asill

[Judgment June 6]

The phrase "an offence under the Act" could not be construed so as to include a conspiracy to commit an offence under the Act.

The repeal of the Extradition Act 1870 did not free the Anglo-American Extradition Treaty from the constraints of Schedule 1 to that Act.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in a reserved judgment when allowing applications for judicial review by James Bell Gilmore of a decision by the Secretary of State for the Home Department on December 6, 1996 to issue an order to proceed under paragraph 4(2) of Schedule 1 to the Extradition Act 1989 in respect of offences of conspiracy to commit offences under the Theft Act 1968 and conspiracy to defraud, and by Andrew Olabayo Ogus of a decision by the secretary of state on January 29, 1997 to issue an order to proceed under the same provisions in respect of similar offences.

Miss Clare Montgomery, QC, for Mr Gilmore; Mr John Hardy for Mr Ogus; Mr James Lewis for the secretary of state.

LORD JUSTICE PILL said that the United States government sought the extradition of the two applicants for conspiracies to defraud and in commit offences under the 1968 Act. The issue was whether these named offences of conspiracy were extradition crimes.

It was first contended by Mr Lewis that the offences of conspiracy had always been extradition crimes within Schedule 1 of the Extradition Act 1970. That Schedule, as amended by the Schedule to the Extradition Act 1973 and Schedule 2, Part II to the 1968 Act, included offences under the 1968 Act, but not conspiracy to defraud or to contravene the 1968 Act contrary to section 1(1) of the Criminal Law Act 1977, as substituted by section 5 of the Criminal Attempts Act 1981.

Mr Lewis had argued, relying on the words of Lord Diplock in *Re Nielsen* ([1984] 1 AC 606, 615A), that the words of Schedule 1 to the

vision in respect of similar offences.

Miss Clare Montgomery, QC, for Mr Gilmore; Mr John Hardy for Mr Ogus; Mr James Lewis for the secretary of state.

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Mr Lewis had argued, relying on the words of Lord Diplock in *Re Nielsen* ([1984] 1 AC 606, 615A), that the words of Schedule 1 to the

outvote Mrs Telford on the board of the company.

Section 371 of the 1985 Act provides:

(1) If for any reason it is impossible to call a meeting in which meetings of that company may be called, or to conduct the meeting in manner prescribed by the articles of this Act, the court may... order a meeting to be called, held and conducted in any manner the court thinks fit.

(2) Where such an order is made, the court may give such ancillary or consequential directions as it thinks expedient; and these may include a direction that one member of the company present in person or by proxy be deemed to constitute a meeting.

Mr Richard Lander for Mrs Telford; Mr Robert Sterling for Mrs Telford.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said

that the question was whether section 371 was an appropriate vehicle for resolving deadlock between two equal shareholders. Relying on *In re Opera Photographs Ltd* ([1991] 1 WLR 634) and *In re Slicky Restaurant Ltd* ([1991] BCC 754) Mr Sterling said it was.

But those two decisions went no further than showing that the court could make orders so as to prevent a minority shareholder from using quorum tactics to stop a majority shareholder from exercising the voting rights attached to his shares.

It did not follow from that that the court could make an order so as to permit a 50 per cent shareholder to override the wishes of the other 50 per cent shareholder. That was the result of the order made by the judge.

Mr Lander relied on what he called the principle of the thing,

which was section 371 was a procedural section not designed to affect substantive voting rights or to shift the balance of power between two equal shareholders, in a case where they had agreed that power should be shared equally and where the potential deadlock was something which had to be taken to have been agreed on with the consent and for the protection of each of them.

Similarly, there was no power under section 371 to override a potential deadlock at board or general meeting level which had to be taken to have been imposed with the consent and for the protection of the two equal shareholders.

The judge had no jurisdiction to regulate the affairs in the way he did.

Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Phillips agreed.

Solicitors: Davis Blank Furniss, Manchester; Taylors, Blackburn.

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The judge had no jurisdiction to regulate the affairs in the way he did.

Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Phillips agreed.

Solicitors: Davis Blank Furniss, Manchester; Taylors, Blackburn.

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Applications are invited for the position of Bursar on the retirement of Mr Ian Stranack after 12 years' service. The successful candidate should ideally be able to join the school by 1st November, 1997 for a short period of overlap with the current Bursar. The position is non-residential, but the candidate should be prepared to live within a reasonable commuting distance of the school.

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ROEDEAN

POSTS

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The Governors of Perse School invite applications for the post of Bursar, which becomes vacant in Autumn 1997.

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For further details please contact:
The Chairman of the Governors of the Perse School,
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EDUCATION

On with the revolution

Ray Cowell sets out the fundamental challenge for the Dearing inquiry into higher education

Expectations are running high, but it seems unlikely that the recommendations of Sir Ron Dearing's inquiry into higher education later this month will be either revolutionary or revelatory. Nor should they be. The past decade has already witnessed a radical revolution in the size and nature of higher education. A key task of the Dearing inquiry was to learn the long-term lessons of that revolution, and to incorporate them into an affordable vision of the place of higher education within regional and national agendas.

This, it should not be forgotten, is the third big education inquiry chaired by Sir Ron. It will complete the broad objectives set out in the earlier reports, which established, for the five-to-19 age groups, a clear framework of qualifications, skills, targets and agencies for an education system to tune with the needs of modern citizenship and global competitiveness.

Acknowledging E.M. Forster, my university, in its submission to Dearing, advised: "Only connect." Predictably, some parts of the higher education community will wish to disconnect, stratify and fragment.

The key elements of a "post-Dearing" higher education system already exist; the task now is to "connect" them, in every sense of that word, including electronically. We do not need any new "big ideas", only a willingness to build on the revolution of the past decade. A few examples spring to mind.

Many universities have pioneered links with further education in ways that provide diverse and lifelong opportunities for learners of all ages, often from deprived backgrounds. Such developments have taken place through local and regional partnerships. These initiatives must be nurtured. The higher education dimension of the training and enterprise councils (Tecs) particularly needs further development. The imposition of, for example, North American community college models could be damaging. Many of these FE/HES relationships are already capable of developing two-year associate degrees at GNVQ level 4, their quality assured and their student progression routes defined by the FE/HES partnership.

Another key element of the report is likely to be the place of higher education within a broad regional agenda. In a few special cases, such regionalism might be enhanced through institutional mergers, but there are larger issues at stake. Genuine regionalism should focus on higher education's contribution to wide regional agendas, focused on such issues as urban regeneration, the environment, inward investment and skills audits, all involving connections and partnerships that build on the innovations of the past decade.

The compulsory professional training of lecturers is another likely recommendation. The temptation will be to bring in a new broom and set up a uniform system of accreditation. A better way forward would be to take account of the pioneering work in professional qualifications and staff development already



IT lessons: part of a framework for an education system in tune with the needs of modern citizenship

undertaken, and to graft onto such stock a vigorous and co-ordinated lifelong system of professional training and development. The work many universities have undertaken, through Investors in People, the Universities and Colleges Staff Development Agency and the Staff and Educational Development Association, can be strengthened into a demanding set of professional qualifications.

The importance of "key" graduate skills and employability will also loom large. Sandwich courses and work-based/experimental learning provide a widely valued basis for the introduction of advanced vocational qualifications that would reconcile academic and vocational concerns.

Underpinning all the report's recommendations should be a determination to establish and verify rigorous standards. Here the "post-Dearing" debate should focus on threshold-graduate standards, not on the elusive quest for exact comparability. The much-maligned external

examiner system is capable of being strengthened to provide the assurance that the Government will seek. Employers would also welcome the introduction of graduate profiles, supplementing the existing degree classification system by describing assessed learning outcomes in, for example, communication, IT, team-working and the other foundation skills for lifelong learning.

If such a higher education system can be made accessible and affordable through, for example, a "learning bank", with individual learning accounts funded by individual, Government, and employer contributions, then the recent policy uncertainties underlying the period of "consolidation" could give way to a more confident and equitable expansion towards 40 per cent 18 to 21 participation as advocated by the CBI, and lifelong learning opportunities.

In short, there is no need to rerun the debates of the 1980s, or to marginalise the achievements of that decade. Higher education, at present, resembles nothing so

much as a vast jigsaw that requires simply patience, co-operation and ingenuity to transform into a millennial vision.

We are not awaiting a radical report such as the 1960s Robbins committee's, but one that, properly interpreted, will help us to place higher education within the mainstream of national life. The big ideas of the future are about establishing a learning society, learning organisations, a "university for industry" and the related electronic learning networks. They all depend on a higher education sector that has the confidence, and resources, to engage in vigorous dialogue with society at large.

A learning society beckons. If universities can, with Dearing's help, learn from the past decade, their place within that society will be central and creative. Dearing can confidently be expected to focus the issues but it will not change the fundamental challenge — of grasping and taking forward the full social implications of the recent higher education revolution.

● The author is Vice-Chancellor of Nottingham Trent University.

Heads against a brick wall

Poor pay is only one reason some schools are finding it hard to recruit, says John Rae

Schools are facing a crisis of leadership. The calibre of the head teacher is the most important factor that determines whether a school flourishes or declines; yet we are allowing a situation to develop where headships are lying vacant because people with the right qualities are no longer interested in applying for the posts.

Nationally, 21 per cent of head posts have to be re-advertised; the figure for London primary schools is 50 per cent. One reason for this is that many heads have simply had enough, and there has been a dramatic increase in those taking early retirement.

In the independent sector, vacant headships are rare, but many schools report difficulties in drawing up a workable shortlist. Independent heads, too, are retiring early or seeking jobs outside education. Headhunters who recently moved into the education field were surprised at how many inquiries they received from independent heads wanting to leave the profession.

So what is going wrong? The National Association of Head Teachers believes that in state schools it is a question of money, and that heads' salaries are "not worth the candle". They are, it claims, falling 11 per cent behind industry managers' pay. The head of a state secondary school earns on average £46,000, whereas many heads of independent senior schools earn more than £80,000. The average salary of a state primary head is £31,000, which would be viewed with derision by anyone applying to be head of an independent junior school.

Better salaries may well improve the recruitment situation in state schools, but there is another and possibly more fundamental reason why fewer people are attracted to the job, and that is the increased tension between the head and the governing body.

Though state and independent schools have different constitutions, the cause of this tension is the same: who is responsible for running the school? The last Government gave too much power to governors of state schools to the point that they can, if they wish, usurp the head's role. To make the job workable, the head, though accountable to the governing body, must be solely responsible for running the school. Governors, however hard-working, are amateurs and should have no role in professional matters such as the appointment of staff.

If David Blunkett wants to improve the flow of good candidates for headships of state schools, he should review not only the salaries but the balance of power between the head and the governors. There is no sign that this is one of the Secretary of State's priorities, but there will never be enough men and women of ability coming forward until heads are given the freedom and authority to do the job without amateur intervention.

The constitutions of independent schools make it clear that the head is the chief executive, but as the competi-

tion intensifies, some governing bodies are seeking ways to exert greater control over the running of the school. More than ever, heads are in conflict with their governing body.

Some hawkish governors want to treat their heads like football managers. In a recent case a head was offered only a two-year contract. The Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference (HMC), which has opposed fixed-term contracts, has been forced to accept an increasing number of contracts for ten years or less.

This is now a big deterrent for men and women thinking of applying for the headship of an independent school. They fear they may be out in the cold long before they can draw their pension. Very few independent heads have found worthwhile jobs outside education. They are seen, unfairly perhaps, not as team players but



absolute monarchs who would be difficult to fit into an organisation.

The truth is that the skills required to be a successful head do not transfer easily to other jobs. Short-term contracts have brought this problem into focus, yet neither HMC nor the Governing Bodies Association has given thought to a solution. The Armed Services have long recognised that if people are to be attracted to short-term contracts, they will need help to find a job when the contract ends. If the independent sector continues to ignore this issue, the supply of good heads will continue to dry up.

The idea of the head as an endangered species will provoke incredulity in the staffroom and mirth behind the bicycle sheds, but it could become a reality if governors interfere too much or care too little about the head they have discarded. A national professional qualification for headship may improve the head's management skills, but it is the men and women with that extra quality — vision, charisma, force of personality — who are most likely to be deterred if the head is expected to be the governing body's poodle.

● The author is a former chairman of HMC. His Letters to Parents will be published in January.

Schools 1, colleges 0

Gordon Brown's surprise boost for education in Wednesday's Budget confirmed in stark terms the new Government's priorities. Schools would be bailed out to the tune of more than £1 billion next year; universities and colleges get nothing.

The settlement offers proof, if any was needed, that university students are about to face tuition fees. It is also bad news in the short term; at least, for further education, which made its own high-profile case for better treatment only hours before Mr Brown spoke.

By an accident of timing, July has turned out to be education policy month. Helena Kennedy, QC, published her report on further education this week; the schools White Paper will follow on Monday and Sir Ron Dearing's review of higher education will complete the set before the end of the month.

The clear message from the Budget was that Tony Blair's promise to make "education, education and education" the top priorities for his Government applied first and foremost to schools. Further and higher education would have to find new sources of funding — graduates and employers — to tackle their problems.

Labour made it clear before the election that any new resources would be concentrated on the younger age groups. The Budget contained a nod in the direction of universal nursery education, as well as enough new money to convince teachers that the new Government really would offer support as well as pressure.

Assuming the "modest" increase for teachers that



Kennedy: report this week
John O'Leary
looks at the
Budget boost

ministers have demanded, the extra £1 billion for recurrent spending should leave schools with a real-terms increase of about 1 per cent. David Whitbread, the Local Government Association's education officer, said: "It will not mean a bonanza for schools, but we are closer to what we need than we have been for some years."

Schools would be wise not to expect such favourable treatment in future years but, so long as local authorities do not divert the money to other services, they should be able to improve stocks of books and equipment, as well as to ensure that class sizes do not rise again next year. David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, will be able to claim that he has delivered his side of the bargain when he calls next week for greater efforts. Universities will have

been disappointed. If not surprised, to be left out. But the decision makes some type of graduate contributions essential if growing financial worries are to be addressed. Free tuition has been on the way out for some months; the only question now is whether universities can wait for a government system.

The real losers, however, must be the 450 further education colleges, many of them already in financial difficulty. The Kennedy report, though not expected to produce instant riches, was the sector's bid for a new deal. Some of the ideas involved other sources of cash, such as students and the National Lottery, but inevitably, much of the burden would fall on the State.

College principals did not have to wait for the Budget to tell that this would not be their year. Kim Howells, Minister for Lifelong Learning, responding instantly to the report, recognised the need of colleges for extra resources, but made it clear that the solution would not be found in the public purse.

Shifting the responsibility neatly to employers, he said: "We want industry to understand that it has got to play its part in the development of further education, and it has got to be a big part."

In place of even the vaguest promises, the colleges were treated to the pious hope that taking a further education course would soon be regarded on equal terms with an Oxford or Cambridge degree. They will hope that another White Paper promised for the autumn is more realistic.

Susan Elkin commends an enlightened exam system

Oral examinations are still anathema to some teachers. Perhaps they have not encountered the unusually supportive, flexible examination system the English Speaking Board (ESB) offers. This seems to help participants to speak out more confidently and fluently than any other teaching method I have encountered. Nowhere is this more evident than in Guernsey.

"These are my palms," said Nicola, aged nine, to her year 5 class at Vale Junior School, as she swirled her huge red and yellow ceremonial majorette plumes back and forth at arm's length. After she had answered lots of well-expressed questions from her audience, it was Stephen's turn to talk about and demonstrate roller-blading. Each child spoke with unusual clarity and directness. These young Guernseys, under the guidance of their teacher, Brenda Meade, were practising for their imminent ESB examinations. As well as a talk, the test at this level includes a prepared reading aloud and the performance of a poem, learnt by heart.

The children at nearby Amherst Junior School treated me to some readings they were working on. At assessment time, each child gets a detailed written critique of his or her performance from the visiting examiner from the mainland. There is no set time to take the test, so it can be arranged when the candidates are ready.

All 13 of Guernsey's primary schools use the ESB as a means of promoting oral skills. Most children do an examination in year 3 and another in year 5.

Four of the island's five secondary schools are also involved. Most enter pupils for ESB exams in year 9 and year 11. At St Sampson's Sec-

Students enjoy the power of speech

ondary school, David Pipe, 16, had prepared an informative talk about roller hockey for his exam. One advantage of this work is that it is truly cross-curricular.

Year 11 pupils at La Mare de Carteret Secondary School are full of praise for the ESB system. One group explained: "You might need presentation skills when you're at work. ESB makes you find things out. It teaches you to listen. Learning by heart is good mental discipline."

Mont Varouf School, for pupils aged four to 19 with severe learning difficulties, also uses the ESB. Bob Batty, the head, said: "Because the tests are progressive we can enter our young people at an appropriate level and ensure that they really do achieve something."

Slowly and painstakingly, the senior group — Evette, Luisa, Tanya, John, Shane, Jason and James — told me how, last year, they did talks about working in sheltered workshops and staying overnight in the school chalet. Despite their problems, these cheerful young people showed a clear understanding of why speaking matters.

The ESB was founded in 1952 by Christabel Burniston, now an MBE for services to education and the ESB's indefatigable 87-year-old president. She sought to develop oral skills (and literary appre-

ciation) without recourse to the horrors of old-style elocution. During its 45-year history, the ESB has worked in a number of independent and maintained sector schools, although it has lost ground in the latter in recent years for reasons of cost. Each ESB entry fee costs £10 to £15. Many mainland schools feel unable to ask parents to pay this. Local authorities cannot or will not. Sponsorship is rare. Consequently, most young people in Britain have to make do with the perfunctory national curriculum and GCSE oral assessment.

In Guernsey it is otherwise. Since Christabel Burniston's first visit in 1953, the ESB has been almost universally implemented in the island's schools. There are several reasons for this. First, Burniston was allowed to set up comprehensive in-service teacher training. Secondly, the scheme had the enthusiastic support of John Stevenson, then Guernsey's adviser and inspector for English and later its director for education. Thirdly, the local education authority (LEA) has funded ESB work centrally for 12 years. The current annual cost is £15,000 to £20,000 for a school population of 8,600 because, of course, not every child takes an examination every year. Fourthly, the work has been co-ordinated since 1988 by one — very efficient and dynamic — person, Jackie Gaizley, English teacher at La Mare de Carteret.

Young Britons are wont, in Gillian Shephard's unforgettable phrase, to communicate by grunt. If oral communication is to be as well developed among mainland schoolchildren as it is in Guernsey, surely LEAs and opted-out schools could do worse than to follow Guernsey's enlightened example?

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ROWING

Berlin crew have oars removed at a single stroke

By Mike Rosewell, Rowing Correspondent

WIKING Berlin, a "selected" crew in the Thames Challenge Cup, were disqualified without taking another stroke at Henley yesterday. The Germans were found to be rowing three ineligible men, Ziegner, Rosenburger and Spaeter, have all represented Germany at lightweight level in the past four years. The rules state that there should only be two such international rowers and none from the previous four years of competition.

Mike Sweeney, the Henley chairman, when asked why the Germans were allowed to race and beat Monmouth on Wednesday, said: "It is the responsibility of the club to sign for eligibility. They were disqualified, but, by the time they got to me, they understood the rules properly."

The Wiking crew were at Henley to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of their win in the Grand. The decision left Tideway Scullers with a row over and no selected crews in the top quarter.

London RC's Thames Cup eight, also a selected crew, showed the same unruffled approach as their Wyfold Cup four, who won again. The eight were led to the halfway point by Garda Siochana, the Irish police, before Stewart Simms, the London stroke, roused his crew opposite their home supporters at Remenham Club and broke the Irish.

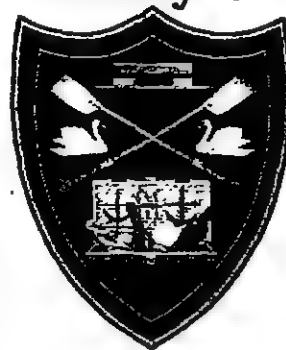
Nottingham and Molesey, the two selected crews in the Wyfold, have both survived two races without undue effort. Molesey enjoying a paddle yesterday when Quintin were disqualified after 20 strokes.

Greg Searle, Britain's top sculler, experienced his first race in the Diamond Sculls with little close attention, either from his opponent, Oliver Griffiths, of Chester, or from the enclosures, which were

largely deserted at 8.50am. Searle did not mind his non-peaktime appearance. "It helped me to remind myself that Henley is just a normal regatta," he said, "even if it is not."

Jamie Koven, of the United States, who could be Searle's semi-final opponent tomorrow, also won with ease in a virtually identical three, but Searle's New Zealand coach, Harry Mahon, is not taking his opponent today, Adri Middag, of Holland, lightly.

Henley '97



"Middag only just lost to Verouen [the 1996 Diamonds winner] in Amsterdam last week," Mahon said.

Searle's lightweight Great Britain colleague, Peter Haining, won again, in spite of a 2st weight disadvantage, into a strong headwind. The selected Australian, Nick McDonald-Crowley, led to the halfway point before Haining, with considerable crowd support, sculled past to win.

The women's sculls boiled up nicely yesterday. Maria Brandin, of Sweden, the holder, progressed comfortably in the top half of the draw, as did Britain's Olympic sculler, Guin Batten and Sarah Winckless, the 6ft 4in Cambridge University president,

in the bottom section. Winckless, 23, in a new boat sponsored by Virgin Direct, wants to challenge for the Olympic sculls spot. The two Britons race today. Bob Winckless, Sarah's father and with three Cambridge Blues, said the aim was to "take Guin apart". Sarah was less direct. Miles Forbes-Thomas, Batten's coach, contented himself with: "Sarah who?"

The biggest upset of the day came when Westminster School — considerably assisted by their Greek coach, Bob Michaels — beat Radley, the national schools' champions, in the Princess Elizabeth Cup. Westminster snatched a half-length lead at the Barrier and, in spite of continued pushes by the selected Radley crew, Westminster refused to fold. In the same event, Canford's giant-killing continued in another great race, when they were rowed down by Hampton but came back to win.

Another Greek coach, Stephanos Volanitis, was not able to work the same magic for two Birmingham students, Gregan Ward and Robin Underwood. In the first day of the Goblets, The Birmingham pair, the British University champions, faced Rob Thatcher and Ben Hunt-Davis, Britain's leading World Cup pair. Pete Sheppard, the British coach, watched his crew veer alarmingly off the start in the wind before settling down to win easily.

Argo, of Holland, were the first foreign selected crew to be beaten in the Britannia coxed fours, but it did not reduce foreign interest, since their conquerors were the University of Minnesota, who train on the Mississippi. Another Dutch selected crew, Skoll, from Amsterdam, were eliminated in the Temple, beaten by Chervell, the Oxford development squad.



Hunt-Davis, left, and Thatcher ease to victory in the first round of the Silver Goblets and Nickalls' Cup yesterday

RESULTS FROM HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Thames Cup Holders: Neptune (Ire) Second round Nottingham A to West easily, 7min 42sec South-Kyngesley (Ger) to Farnwell South-Ire Club 8, 7:12 Castle Searle to Nottingham B easily, 7:02 London to Garda Siochana (Ire) 1st, 6:45 Tideway Scullers Sch to Woking, Basing (Ger) 2nd Neptune to Thames Tideway's B 1st, 7:08 Upper Thames A to St Catherine's (Can) 1st, 6:34 FIRST ROUND: Nottingham B to Thames 1st, 7:02 Princess Elizabeth Cup Holders: Brentwood College School (Can) Second round St Paul's to Abingdon A 3, 6min 55sec Shrewsbury A to Lymington Upper 3rd, 7:14 Monmouth to Bedford B 2nd, 7:25 St Edward's to St Peter's easily, 6:35 Brooks Sch (US) to St John's, 7:10 Westminster to Radley A 1st, 6:50 Pangbourne to Oundle 1st, 7:17 Canford to Henson A 1st, 7:12 FIRST ROUND: St Peter's to King's, Worcester 3rd, 7:25; Lymington Upper to St John's, 7:35; Monmouth to Bedford, Modern B 2nd, 7:17. Temple Cup Holders: Yale University (US) Second round Queen's Univ, Belfast to Univ of East Anglia 1st, 7min 04sec Univ of Pennsylvania (US) to Univ of Bristol 1st, 6:59 Harvard Univ (US) to University Coll, London 2nd, 7:14 Imperial Coll and King's Coll, London to Durham Univ A 4th, 6:39 | University Coll, Dublin (Ire) to Nottingham Univ 1st, 6:50 WGA Upton 1st to Jesus Coll, Cambridge 3rd, 7:15 Durham Univ B to Radley Coll 3, 7:30 New Coll, Oxford to Kingston 2nd, 7:20 Leeds Univ to Queen's Coll, Oxford 4th, 7:17 Univ of Washington to Reading Univ 3rd, 6:50 Bori to St Hel & St Jude Coll and Hildesheim Coll, Durham 4, 7:29 Cambridge Univ Lightweights to United College, London easily, 7:02 Chesham BC to Ash Sturt 1st, 7:04 Deble to Broomfield Coll and St Edmund Hall, Oxford easily, 6:54 FIRST ROUND: University Coll, London to Lady Margaret, Cambridge 1st, 7:11; Glasgow Univ to Downing Coll and Rowell Coll, Cambridge 3rd, 7:20; Nottingham A to Oxford Brookes Univ B 1st, 7:08. Wyfold Cup Holders: Queen's Tower Second round Commercial to Upper Thames 2, 7min 25sec London to Stanford 2, 7:15 Chichester to Tewkesbury 1st, 7:28 Molesey A to Queen's Coll, Oxford easily, 7:22 Canford to Henson A 1st, 7:12 FIRST ROUND: Molesey A to Bedford 3rd, 7:07; Upper Thames to Nottingham and Lymington 1st, 7:21; York to Cambridge 2nd, 7:10; Westminster to Radley A 1st, 7:10; Pangbourne to Oundle 1st, 7:17; Canford to Henson A 1st, 7:12. Britannia Cup Holders: Oxford Brookes University Second round Lea to Imperial Coll, London B 1st, 7min 40sec St Helens to Thames B 1st, 7:54 | Trinity Coll, Dublin (Ire) to Staines 3rd, 6:59 Haring Henbury (Ger) to Cambridge 2nd, 7:45 Univ of London to St John's Coll, Oxford 1st, 7:54 Univ of London to St John's Coll, Oxford 1st, 7:54 Haring Henbury 2nd, 7:54 FIRST ROUND: Lea to Imperial Coll, London A, 6:55; Wokingham SR Argo (Holl) to Bedford 4th, 7:48; Univ of Bristol to Thames Tideway's 1st, 7:40; Henley to Nottingham and Union 1st, 7:41; Vase to Kingston Univ 1st, 7:43 Visitors' Cup Holders: Wokingham Argo (Holl) First round Oxford Brookes Univ to Isis 2nd, 7min 13sec Imperial Coll and Chichester 2nd & Westminster Medical Sch to Univ of London A 1st, 7:19 Newcastle Univ to Essex Univ 1st, 7:19 Univ of Essex (SA) to Bedford Sch B 3rd, 7:21 Bedford Sch A to Trinity Coll, Dublin (Ire) 1st, 7:54 Univ of London B to Monmouth Sch easily, 7:28 Princess Royal Cup Holders: M H Brandon (Swi) First round RE Ruden to RP Ingledew 1st, 10min 18sec M H Brandon to E L Richards 3, 10:50 S K Woodhouse, to A L V van Leemput easily, 9:17 B E Roy to M E Stevens 2nd, 10:22 G S Butler to C Gough 1st, 9:15 M H Brandon to H Little easily, 9:24 Diamond Sculls Holders: M L O Verwoerd (Holl) Second round M P Searle to O E D Gifford 4, 6min 40sec J W Koven to S D Bridge 4, 6:39 D J Gifford to G C Monckton 1st, 6:25 A Midding to U Meyer 5, 6:45 P M Haining to M J McDonald-Crowley 2, 6:57 R S C Tucker to S D Collett easily, 6:32 M P van der Schoot to P A Hone 2nd, 6:34 Silver Goblets and Nickalls' Cup Holders: A Nader (Austria) and H Bauer (Austria) First round I A Hains and J M Haines to S R Morris and C M Casch 3rd, 6min 40sec AR Tucker and WH Castle to H S Dwyer, Lash and T P Tany 3rd, 6:42 J D Hapworth and J P Purnell to S J Goodwin and M E Thompson 3, 6:30 C P Fisher and S Francis to G T Smith and P D Thomas 1st, 7:55 P A J Bridge and M H W Parsh to S M Tangley and J C Galle 1st, 6:31 R Thwaites and F H Hume to G J Wood and R S R Underwood easily, 6:25 S J Mearns and P W Macgregor to M Tyn and R Dunlop easily, 6:42 Double Sculls Holders: G Walker (US) and G Lewis (US) First round J C Baker and M M Bevan to M F Hains and M J Owen 4th, 6min 14sec M D Free and D Free to I A Nettle and S F Dence 4th, 6:22 C L B Long and B N J Long to J L Walker and M W Patten 4th, 6:41 G S Cundell and D Y Proust to D J Chivers and P A Hone 1st, 6:28 B A Bain and R J Walker to A Baid and T R Kingwell 2nd, 7:43 D P Ayers and P R Norris to T P Dorell and D Z Lloyd 2nd, 6:10 |
|---|--|--|

TRIATHLON Smith leads British contingent into final

FROM IAN SWEET IN VUOKATTI, FINLAND

FOR the first time in any leading event, qualification was the name of the game at the European triathlon championships at the Vuokatti winter sports centre and Britain's two-time world champion, Spencer Smith, did enough in heat two to make tomorrow's final, tomorrow. All four members of the British team qualified, but only Smith and Mike Elliott made it by "right", being in the top 20 of their heats.

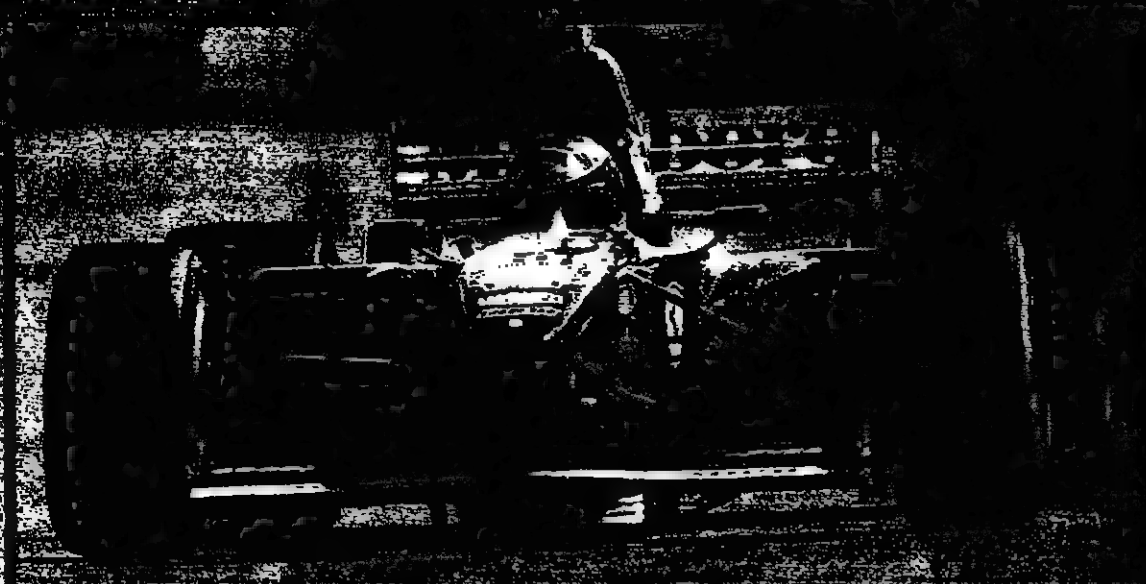
Richard Allen and Alastair Johnson went through to the 50-man final as two of the ten next-fastest competitors. The qualifying was held over the sprint distance of a 750-metre swim, 20-kilometre bike ride and five-kilometre run, but the final will be held over twice the distance. The bike course is a brute, made up of ten-kilometre laps and including a climb of 2½ kilometres making the athletes to the 90-metre sled jump that dominates the skyline here.

Smith, who lives in California, was drawn in heat two and did just enough to finish inside the slowest qualifying time of heat one. He looked relaxed and fresh at the finish and said that tomorrow "four times up the bike climb, especially if it stays hot, will be very hard".

It was a different story for Allen, who was just 5sec inside the 1hr 4min 34sec qualifying time, suffering from the dual effects of over-racing and a virus. His first reaction was that he would not be fit enough to compete in the final, although Mick English, the British team manager, said Allen would race unless he produced a doctor's certificate. He had warned the triathletes not to race too much before these championships. Money is tight within the British triathlon federation and they cannot afford the luxury of athletes racing when they are not fully prepared.

EXCLUSIVE TIMES NEWSPAPERS GRAND PRIX COMPETITION

Fantasy Formula One race hots up for our £25,000 top prize



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The top of our Fantasy Formula One leaderboard in the race for our £25,000 top prize has a new leader in L Ackland from Guildford, Surrey. His team, Asma O, has a total of 5919 points after last week's French Grand Prix at Magny-Cours. His team comprises M Schumacher, Alesi, Irvine, Trulli, Fisichella, Fontana, Begetton, McLaren, Ferrari, Sauber, Minardi and Lola. T Grosvenor of Luton, Wiltshire, wins a trip for two in the British Grand Prix. His team, Beyliden Racers, scored 5977 points at Magny-Cours. R Buck from Lowestoft, Suffolk, wins a Sony PlayStation and CD-Rom games. His team, Rob's Racers, also scored 5977 points. Both players have M Schumacher, R Schumacher, Villeneuve, Pironi, Trulli, Fisichella, Ferrari, Williams, Jordan, Arrows, Minardi and Sauber. Both players also share 5,979 points on our leaderboard.

TO ENTER make three selections from each of the four groups below and call 0891 405 001 or 44 990 100 311 outside the UK. The order in which you enter your first three drivers will be your team's name. The first and last finishing places for the British Grand Prix and other grand prix where points are scored. TRANSFERS Change up to three selections before the British Grand Prix by calling 0891 405 001 or 44 990 100 311 or UK before 10pm on Thursday, July 4. CHECK YOUR SCORE Check your score and position by calling 0891 405 001 or 44 990 100 311 or UK. CLARIFICATION: Rule 2 applies to the transfers and replacements on the table below. The competition team for Prost published after the Canadian Grand Prix has been adjusted downwards by 25 points as he did not finish in that race. All entrants score zero points.

| OUR LEADERBOARD AFTER THE FRENCH GRAND PRIX | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------------|--------|
| POS | TEAM NAME | MANAGER NAME | POINTS |
| 1 | Aston O | L Ackland | 5919 |
| 2 | What Alesi Bunch! | N Rowe | 5899 |
| 3 | The Chequered Flags | A Cooper | 5771 |
| 4 | Putunia | Staszkiwicz | 5763 |
| 5 | Team Julius II | C Gale | 5781 |
| 6 | Tetch-Meisters Racing | B Day | 5748 |
| 7 | Dow Jones 2 | I Dowdy | 5746 |
| 8 | Waite Racing F1 | P Waite | 5741 |
| 9 | Formula Uno | P Tabone | 5732 |
| 10 | Parkhurst Racing | L Danson | 5723 |
| 11 | Dragon Racing | R Davis | 5721 |
| 12 | Verne Superstars | H Coulter | 5716 |
| 13 | John Hunt 23 | J Hunt | 5713 |
| 14 | Barnstonworth 1a | I Lawrenson | 5685 |
| 15 | Gwilt F1 | D Gwilt | 5653 |
| 16 | J B 1 | I Rook | 5623 |
| 17 | John Hunt 8 | J Hunt | 5622 |
| 18 | John Hunt 10 | J Hunt | 5622 |
| 19 | John Hunt 29 | J Hunt | 5613 |
| 20 | Brit F1 | R Belcher | 5612 |
| 21 | Ben Elliot | S Nicholls | 5612 |
| 22 | Dustscreen Racing | B Tolerton | 5612 |
| 23 | Bring Back Brindle | M Woodley | 5601 |
| 24 | Team Peter | P Thompson | 5600 |
| 25 | Salanco | S Dankevics | 5593 |

| MAKE THREE SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THE FOUR GROUPS BELOW | | | |
|--|----------|-----------------|---------|
| The first column of figures, in light type after the names below, shows the Fantasy Formula One race scores for the French GP. The second column shows the total points in the competition so far. | | | |
| DRIVERS | | | |
| GROUP A | | GROUP B | |
| 01 D Hill | 116 378 | 13 J Trulli | 115 885 |
| 02 M Schumacher | 172 1012 | 14 J Verstappen | 14 566 |
| 03 J Villeneuve | 125 738 | 15 U Katajama | 123 515 |
| 04 E Irvine | 140 804 | 16 P Diniz | 89 440 |
| 05 J Alesi | 129 845 | 17 R Rosset | 0 0 |
| 06 G Berger | 0 553 | 18 R Schumacher | 124 453 |
| 07 M Hakkinen | 25 670 | 19 G Fisichella | 118 758 |
| 08 D Coulthard | 112 572 | 20 S Nakano | 12 485 |
| 09 R Barrichello | 40 421 | 21 N Fontana | 37 704 |
| 10 H-H Frenzen | 147 830 | 22 T Marques | 5 490 |
| 11 J Herbert | 128 690 | 23 J Magnussen | 35 428 |
| 12 M Salo | 59 984 | 24 V Sospiri | 0 0 |
| CONSTRUCTORS | | | |
| GROUP C | | GROUP D | |
| 25 Williams | 25 117 | 31 Arrows | 5 69 |
| 26 Ferrari | 30 180 | 32 Sauber | 9 82 |
| 27 McLaren | 0 87 | 33 Tyrrell | -20 9 |
| 28 Benetton | 12 130 | 34 Minardi | 6 32 |
| 29 Jordan | 21 90 | 35 Stewart | -20 59 |
| 30 Prost | 7 81 | 36 Lola | 0 -0 |

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 late details

Henman and Rusedski unable to realise hopes of home triumph

Inglorious ending as dream turns to nightmare

Michael Calvin reflects on the vacuum left by the departure of Britain's standard-bearers

Tim Henman could not bear to wait for Michael Stich to complete the formalities of victory and stalked away, alone, into the locker-room. Greg Rusedski managed a pre-programmed wave to the crowd, but a fixed smile betrayed his sense of shock. Once a shared dream had dissolved, sympathy had the virulence of strychnine.

"They're desperate for a Wimbledon champion," Stich said, as he dwelt, with a poignant sense of responsibility that bordered on guilt, upon the unrealistic expectations that they had aroused. "Anything that could go wrong, did go wrong." Henman mourned, as he peered into an emotional void.

Wimbledon, for the British public, is now a vacuum of lost opportunity. Everywhere Henman and Rusedski looked yesterday, they saw only the superficial symbols of patriotism. Plastic bowler hats, featuring the Union flag, had been cannibalised from Euro 96.

nation as to why he was deserted by the attributes of flair and fortitude that a nation had come to rely upon.

"I would wish for him to go back and reflect on that, to try to figure out what went wrong," Stich said. "You know, I think it's very difficult for him to deal with all the pressure. Today was just too big for a guy like him. He's very young, not very experienced, and has a lot to learn."

Such a summary may seem harsh, in the cold light of day, but the German was only expressing the unvarnished truth. A champion's nature is a fiendish jigsaw of many small parts and can take years to assemble.

Revealingly, Rusedski claimed physical fatigue, but spoke like a man who was mentally drained. "I realise I had a good opportunity," he said, in that irritating mid-Atlantic monotone, when he was reminded of the rarity of a chance to win Wimbledon. "There's nothing you can do about it but to move on to the next event."

'Rusedski spoke like a man mentally drained'

There was nothing to wave them for. Rusedski played tennis like the Tin Man, who had discovered, far too late, that the wicked witch of the North had stolen his WD40. Henman, stripped of his mental strength by the occasion, was similarly distraught.

"That was probably my worst experience on a tennis court," he said. "I don't actually know the reasons why. What makes it so frustrating is that, what, 24 hours ago, I played some of the best tennis of my career. Now I'm talking to you after playing some of the worst."

Given that he is eerily similar, in temperament, image and intelligence to Sebastian Coe, the immediate inquest was suffused by a strange sense of déjà vu. The way Henman's fresh face creased with surprise and self-disgust summoned memories of Coe attempting to articulate the self-loathing that consumed him when he lost the 800 metres final to Steve Ovett at the Moscow Olympics.

He, of course, went on to redeem himself by winning the 1,500 metres within a matter of days. Henman has a little longer — 50 weeks to be precise — to search deep within himself, for an expla-

strangers, they will never be allowed to free themselves from its soft yet suffocating embrace.

The enthusiasm that they generate is tinged by desperation. British tennis has the demeanour of an off-rejected spinster, who, having found Mr Right, is petrified that he will stray. Rusedski and Henman will remain prisoners of their predecessors, a pair condemned, by generations of mediocrity, to arouse self-destructive emotions.

Rusedski's pretensions to world class were mocked by the athleticism and anticipation of Pioline, who, when faced with an ill-directed artillery barrage, was capable of incongruous delicacy. He was also incapable of living up to xenophobic predictions that he was another frail foreigner, ready to be blasted into submission.

The corporate hospitality crowd delivered their equivalent of the emperor's thumbs-down when Rusedski was broken in the first game of the fourth set. To a man and over-dressed woman, they rose from their barely warm seats and headed for lunch. Even the subse-



Rusedski feels the strain during his shattering quarter-final defeat at the hands of Pioline

quent pleas to "Come on Gregory" had a faintly ironic ring.

He sat in the players' stand, a scion of Stasi chic in a grey leather trenchcoat and mirrored sunglasses, and openly derided Rusedski. "A double fault," he predicted, as the adopted Briton wound himself up to serve. When Pioline won, he turned around to his audience, and giggled like a naughty schoolboy.

Rusedski, who retains the go-whiz worthiness of Deputy Dawg, was oblivious to the insults. He talked a far better game than he played. "It was a case of my mind saying 'I want to get out there and do my best' and my body saying 'no' he said. "That's tennis for you. You have to try to find a way to win in those circumstances, and unfortunately I couldn't."

"I don't think I'm at my best point as a tennis player yet. Sometimes you look at certain players and you say, OK, that's as high as they can get. But I don't feel I have those limitations, because I see so many areas I can work on. I

don't feel like I'm the full package, but I will be in the future."

Henman was making similar promises, which are a loser's prerogative. Unlike Rusedski, his eyes burned with disappointment. He was affronted by failure and his response was the most encouraging aspect of a debilitating day.

"I'm not going to make excuses"



Pioline is exultant in victory

he said, when someone pushed the theory that the insultingly empty rows of green plastic seats, which greeted his emergence on to No 1 court, had been a damaging diversion. "All the support I've had has been amazing. I'm the one who hits the ball in court and today I was the one who hit the balls out of court. If I was to go out and make excuses, I wouldn't be honest with myself. This is a setback, but I will deal with it and come back a better player. That's the way I work."

"I can look at both sides of the coin. I haven't changed physically as a person in the last 24 hours, and so I will have to analyse different areas. I know this will happen again in the future. Hopefully I'll play great tennis for the vast majority of the time, but there will be occasions when I'll not play well."

The final question was cruel, but predictable. "Will you come back and win Wimbledon?" asked one of those disembodied voices that tend to shape a sportsman's life. "I hope so, yes," said Henman. Only time will tell...

Rough diamonds sparkle in the heat of epic battle

SIMON BARNES



At Wimbledon

The day on Centre Court opened up with a kind of ladies excuse-me: two 16-year-old girls seeking to find out whose will was the less weak. In the first set, it was one of those matches in which, like you and me playing in the park, the first dramatic achievement of actually holding your own service would surely be decisive.

We then passed on to different matters. I make no value judgments here, still less a genderist generalisation, but things were different when Boris Becker and Pete Sampras met. In sport, there are champions and, then again, there are Champions. These two men, triple Wimbledon winners both, are in the latter category. In the end, Sampras won 6-1, 6-7, 6-1, 6-4.

Afterwards, Becker announced that this would be his last Wimbledon as he would not be playing any grand-slam tournaments next year. "I have come to the end of the road with my head up high," he said. He cannot, he said, cope with the physical stresses of a two-week tournament any longer.

When these two men match their wits, it is as if two boys were playing conkers — using diamonds instead of horse-chestnuts. Grass-court tennis is, second, about serve, and third, return of serve. It is first about will. The trouble is that with this pairing, in the will department, it is always going to be equal first. They were just going to have to decide this thing by tennis.

Service against service. Becker has his rather involved quadruple crank-up. It seems to have got more complicated over the years. The Sampras delivery is barebones simple. He just ever so slightly brandishes his racket, as if it were a tomahawk. And lets rip.

Grass-court tennis is a minimalist sort of game. I hear that Richard Krajicek, the champion last year, is enthralled by Zen, the minimalist's religion of choice. The Zen method is based on the unanswerable question, the *koan*. The Sampras service is a Zen *koan*. Whack. Does a dog have Buddha-nature? No answer. Whack. What is the sound of one hand clapping? No answer again, but many hands clap.

Sampras has risen, in his usual fashion at a grand-slam tournament, without trace. His lack of theatricality, his air of mystery, make him an unwatched player in early rounds. In a sense, he is not worth watching. You simply can't tell how good he is: not until he plays someone of genuine quality. Bring on Boris.

Sampras came out of the traps at the speed of light and after seven minutes had reeled off the first three games, serving as powerfully as we expect, returning serve with a certainty that is beyond comprehension. The backhand return, in particular, is nonchalant, unburied, almost a practice stroke.

There was a moment at 5-1 in the first set when Sampras seemed to have a crisis of doubt. It was as if he couldn't for a second believe how ridiculously well he was playing. A tiny thing, but in grass-

court tennis, which is like knife-fighting, a small lapse tends to become a deep wound.

And Becker was stabbing back like anything, inevitably losing the first but clambering back in the second. I have seen champions give up, sometimes in the face of extraordinary pressure, sometimes because they simply cannot bear the champion's load. This is not the case with Champions. Imagine getting into a fight with Sampras, or with Becker. You'd have to kill them, wouldn't you? There is no other option. And so Becker, not being completely dead, took the second set. Diamond cracked against diamond and it seemed that neither could break.

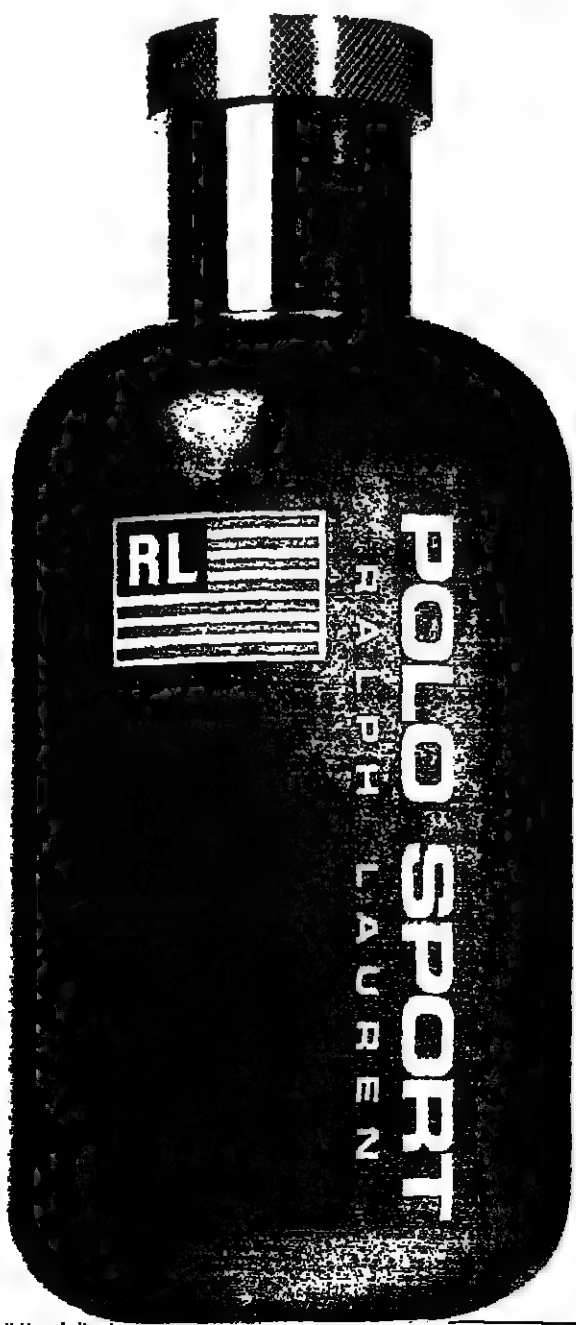
Becker has always been loved: a wonderful player who wears his heart on his sleeve. Sampras wears his heart inside his chest and keeps the shirt well-buttoned on top. There is a feeling among some people that such people as Sampras are bad for sport. Avoid such people. If brilliance in sport is a bad thing, it is time for us all to go home. For Sampras's response to Becker's tightback was to lift his game still further. Out of the stratosphere: to Jupiter and beyond the infinite.

I have recently returned from Africa. From 1, I think, my fourteenth trip to the deep bush. Yet my first sight of the great wildebeest migration of the Serengeti reduced me to head-shaking disbelief and the muttering of awed vulgarities that were more prayers than blasphemies. The Sampras-response to the Becker tightback produced the same effect. It was beautiful, if brutality can ever be beautiful. The third set was more devastating even than the first. As it progressed, so the news from No 1 Court was flashed onto the screen.

Rusedski had gone. Henman was going and Britain's fantasy life in tennis was over for another year. It was time to adjust ourselves to the real thing. That means Sampras.

Becker did not lie down in the fourth set, quite the reverse. He troubled Sampras on many occasions. Troubled, but never worried. Sampras faces Todd Woodbridge in the next round. Poor old Woodbridge. Poor old anybody. Did I say diamonds? Koh-I-Noor.

THE FITNESS FRAGRANCE BY RALPH LAUREN



Kournikova stays true to her origins

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

DOWN by the rubbish dump and old storehouses behind Sokolniki Park, Moscow, lies the Spartak Olympic Sports School. Nestled in an affluent corner of Florida stands the Nick Bollettieri Tennis Academy. Both claim to be behind the success of Anna Kournikova, the latest prodigy to challenge for the big prizes in the women's game.

Kournikova may have been training at the Bollettieri school for the past five years and Bollettieri himself may be casting a close eye over her progress throughout the fortnight from the sidelines in SW19, but still at the Moscow school insist that the hard-hitting, unseeded 16-year-old is their discovery alone. Furthermore, they say, there are dozens more where she came from.

Kournikova has attended the Spartak school since she was six and although only one of its 18 mostly clay courts is indoors — no mean handicap in a city where day-time temperatures are below freezing for four months of the year — Kournikova still trains there regularly and her family lives nearby. "All the credit's going to that Bollettieri," the school's director, Natalya Kochetkova, said yesterday, "but she spends most of her time here."

Kournikova's coach, Larisa Preobrazhenskaya, of Spartak, travels with her to tournaments. "We'll produce a lot more Kournikovas in future," Rosa Mukhamedzhanova, another Spartak coach, said. "We've dozens of very strong under-12s and under-14s. You're going to see a lot more Russians in international tournaments."

Staff at the school know Kournikova well. "The kid burned with a huge desire to play. You just couldn't get her off the court," Marina Tyuryakova, yet another coach, who worked with Kournikova for two years, said.

With wear and tear all too



COVERAGE: Television: BBC1: Live 1.40-4.10pm; Highlights 10.05-11.10pm. BBC2: Live 12.30-3.30pm; Radio: BBC Radio 5 Live: Wimbledon 97 10.5-8.0pm. WEATHER: Sunshine and showers, possibility of heavy rain and thunder. Links to The Times' coverage of Wimbledon are in the internet edition's info times section. <http://www.bbc.com/sport>

evident in his shabby buildings and old clay courts, the school is struggling to recover from a cut in funding caused by the collapse of the Soviet Union. True, tennis, with its bourgeois overtones, was never a favourite of the Soviet sporting authorities, who preferred team games and traditional disciplines such as athletics and gymnastics, but the thaw of glasnost that set in a decade ago, allowing young players to travel and hone their skills in international competition, spawned a new generation, led by Yevgeni Kafelnikov, who won the French Open last year, and Kournikova.

RESULTS FROM THE ALL-ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men's singles
Winner: £15,000
Runner-up: £207,500
Holder: R Krajicek (Hol)

Quarter-finals
P SAMPRAS (US) bt B BECKER (Ger) 6-3, 6-4, 6-4
T A WOODBRIDGE (Aus) bt N KIEHL (Ger) 7-5, 2-6, 6-0, 6-4
M Stich (Ger) bt T HENMAN (GB) 6-3, 6-2, 6-4
C Pioline (Fr) bt G RUSEDISKI (GB) 6-4, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3

Men's doubles
Winners: £170,030
Runners-up: £295,010
Holder: T A Woodbridge (Aus) and M Woodforde (Aus)

Quarter-finals
W Black (Zim) and J Grabl (US) bt D JONKSON and F MONTANA (US) 6-4, 6-1, 6-2
M DAWM and P VERNER (Cz) bt N BROAD (GB) and P MORRAL (SA) 4-6, 4-6, 7-5, 6-4, 6-4

Women's singles
Winner: £273,500
Runner-up: £186,750
Holder: S Graf (Ger)

Semi-finals
M HINGIS (Swe) bt A Kournikova (US) 6-3, 6-2
J NOVOTNA (Cz) bt A SANCHEZ VICARIO (Sp) 6-4, 6-2

Women's doubles
Winners: £147,010
Runners-up: £73,270
Holder: M Hingis (Swe) and H Sukova (Cz)

Third round
N J ARENDT (US) and M M BOLLEGERI (Hol) bt N Kournikova and M Miyagi (Japan) 6-2, 3-6, 6-1

Wednesday's late result
L NELAND (Aust) and H SUKOVIC (Cz) bt N TALIZAI (Fr) and L M WILD (US) 6-4, 6-4

Mixed doubles
Winners: £72,200
Runners-up: £36,100
Holder: C Suk (Cz) and H Sukova (Cz)

Third round
A OLHOVSKY (Rus) and L NELAND (Aust) bt M Kournikova and T Kozan (Slovakia) 6-2, 7-6

First round
T Nielsen (Hol) and Y BAZUKI (Indo) bt D KUMAR (SA) and A FUSAI (Fr) 6-4, 7-5

Second round
Nielsen and Bazuki bt M Kall and G Helgeson Nielsen (US) 6-3, 6-4
OLHOVSKY and NELAND bt P Nyberg and A Carlsson (Swe) 7-5, 6-3

First round
J Glimstedt and C Rubin (US) bt M Jensen (US) and B Schultz-Moore (Hol) 7-5, 6-7, 6-1
D JONKSON and L M WILD (US) bt H J Davids and M Orensma (Hol) 6-3, 6-4

Wednesday's late result
Second round
N Broad (GB) and M de Swart (SA) bt S STOLLE (US) and M J FERNANDEZ (US) 6-3, 3-6, 6-3

First round
J L de Jager (SA) and M Hingis (Swe) bt P T Hand (GB) and L Lake (GB) 6-1, 7-5

MR J Petchey (GB) and C J Wood (GB) bt E Sanchez (Sp) and A Sanchez Vicario (Sp) 4-6, 6-4

Men's over-35 doubles
Winners: £11,000
Runners-up: £11,000
Holder: W J Flock (Pol) and T Wilkinson (US)

First round (round robin)
M J Bates (GB) and R Krishnan (Indo) bt A Mayer and G Meyer (US) 7-6, 6-2, 7-6

J B Fitzgerald (Aus) and A Jarry (Swe) bt H Guarnieri (Swe) and B Torrey (Hol) 6-3, 7-6

A Amritraj and V Amritraj (Indo) bt M R Edmondson and R J Frawley (Aus) 7-6, 7-5

W J Flock (Pol) and T Wilkinson (US) bt B Gilbert and T Mayotte (US) 6-3, 6-4

Men's over-45 doubles
Winners: £11,000
Runners-up: £7,500
Holder: J Alexander (Aus) and P Dent (Aus)

Quarter-finals
J Flock (Chile) and R L Stockton (US) bt N A Fraser and A J Stone (Aus) 6-1, 6-2
O K Davidson (Aus) and E C Drysdale (SA) bt R C Lutz and R Tanner (US) 6-3, 6-4
J G Alexander and P Dent (Aus) bt J D Newcombe and A Q Roche (Aus) 6-4, 6-4

First round
Wednesday's late result
Newcombe and Roche bt J W Faver (GB) and R Taylor (GB) 7-6, 7-6

Women's over-35 doubles
Winners: £10,000
Runners-up: £7,500
Holder: J M Durr (GB) and A E Smith (US)

First round (round robin)
H Mendikova (Aus) and J C Russell (US) bt R Cossale and B F Stone (Hol) 7-6, 6-2

J M Durr (GB) and A E Smith (US) bt R Moller (SA) and S Walsh (US) 6-1, 6-3

L Charles and A Hobbs (GB) bt M Jasevic (Slovakia) and Y Varnak (SA) 7-5, 6-3

Boys' singles
Holder: V Voltchkov (Bel)

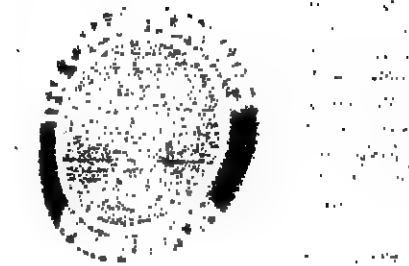
Second round
F Gonzalez (Chile) bt D Belcher (GB) 6-3, 6-2
D Brier (Ger) bt K Krenov-Simonsen (Rus) 6-3, 6-1
L Hewitt (Aus) bt W Cheng (Taiwan) 6-1, 6-2
M Gregoric (Slovakia) bt M Zaver (Egyp) 7-5, 6-3
K Jir (Cz) bt M Gochman (Slovakia) 7-5, 7-6
2 Muzic (Bel) bt T Mesner (Ger) 6-2, 6-3
2 W Whitehouse (SA) bt F Luzzi (It) 6-2, 6-3
6-0, A Simon (Bel) bt O Soverese (It) 6-1, 7-6
A Barnes (GB) bt R Vlc (Cz) 6-1, 6-3
O Rochus (Bel) bt T Terasch (Japan) 6-4, 6-7, 7-5
L Horne (Hol) bt S Odeh (Arg) 6-4, 6-7, 6-2
B Vahaly (US) bt J A Balas (GB) 6-3, 6-2
J Lennard (Fr) bt J Christensen (Swe) 6-1, 6-3
Quadrini (Arg) bt N Masau (Chile) 1-6, 7-6, 6-4

Girls' singles
Holder: A Marenco (Fr)

Second round
J Horst (Bel) bt R Sardu (Rom) 7-5, 6-4
J Stewart (Aus) bt P Palencia (Mex) 6-1, 6-4
A Grahame (Aus) bt A Selcman (Slovakia) 6-4, 7-6
R Fujiwara (Japan) bt A Grahame (Aus) 7-6, 6-2
J Salazar (Cz) bt J Visek (Cz) 6-2, 6-2
S Fiza (Fr) bt M Matavzo (Slovakia) 2-6, 6-3, 6-2
C Black (Zim) bt E Dytberg (Den) 6-3, 6-4
A Torrey (Hol) bt T Pouchet (Swe) 6-3, 6-4
A Ripper (US) bt K Elko (GB) 6-3, 6-4
H Farr (GB) bt B Colomo (Bel) 4-6, 6-3, 6-4
Wooly (Cz) bt L van Rooyen (SA) 7-5, 6-3
1: M Heston (Den) bt E Dominguez (Arg) 7-5, 6-4
M Ivin (US) bt J Cho (S Kor) 6-4, 6-2
A Morganti (Japan) bt M Sogahara (Hol) 6-4, 6-2
Gubova (Hol) bt C Popescu (Can) 2-6, 7-6, 6-1

□ Pete Sampras is 5-2 in favourite with William Fulke to win the men's singles title after beating Boris Becker in the quarter-finals. Michael Stich is quoted at 4-1, with Cedric Pioline at 11-2 and Todd Woodbridge at 16-1.

tennis
Australian
doubles
specialist
flies solo



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TENNIS

Australian doubles specialist flies solo

By Nick Szeczanik

THERE was Henman's quarter-final, there was Rusedski's, there was Becker versus Sampras — and then there was the other one, in which Todd Woodbridge defeated Nicolas Pietrangeli to reach his first grand slam singles semi-final. It was a match of wild fluctuations and occasional bad temper. Woodbridge winning it 7-6, 2-6, 6-0, 6-4.

If the seeding committee had had anything to do with it, this would have been a stellar confrontation between the No 3 and No 5 seeds, Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Michael Chang, but what do they know? Instead, we had Woodbridge, the Australian conqueror of Chang, winner of innumerable doubles titles but in unfamiliar territory as a singles player, and Nicolas Kiefer, a German, 20 tomorrow, who had put out Medvedev as well as Kafelnikov.

Kiefer, who was hoping to reach a semi-final against Boris Becker, his coach, got an early break, to the dismay of the large Australian contingent in the seats out in the wilds of No 2 Court, but they soon found their voices as Woodbridge broke back to level the set at 3-3. It went to a tie-break, taken by Woodbridge, during which Kiefer incurred a code violation for racket abuse.

Kiefer, feeling hard done by because Woodbridge had escaped a warning for an earlier spot of racket-throwing, had words with the umpire.

"You're worse," he was told, "Kiefer, you're a liar" before asking for a inter-break, not waiting for a reply before taking one anyway.

The backchat, continued after the first game of the second set, but this time the talking was done by Wood-

bridge, who cut an increasingly disconsolate figure as the second set passed him by, 6-2. All the more surprising, then, that the Australian took the third 6-0. Was the fact that Kiefer needed treatment on his right shoulder, injured in a fall during the first-set tie-break, a possible explanation?

"I had some pain when I served, but I went to say it's not the reason why I lost," Kiefer said. "He served well, he had good volleys, good serves, good returns. I tried to do my best, but no success."

Perhaps because it is Ashes year, locals were supporting the German, but one protracted rally in the third set drew universal applause as Woodbridge reminded everyone of the qualities that have made him a doubles champion.

Looking supremely comfortable at the net. Then, for no obvious reason, the game settled back into the pattern of the first set.

The players traded breaks at the opening of the fourth set, but thereafter games went with service until a rain delay at dusk on the Woodbridge service.

On the restart, Woodbridge held service and broke in the next crucial game. Kiefer, 30-15 up, netted a gift smash, then, at dusk, a Woodbridge forehand right on the line gave the Australian a break point and the German another reason to query a decision.

The break was gained when Kiefer lost his footing, not for the first time, and slid into the net. The Australian served out to win, staying behind to take the acclaim of his supporters; Kiefer disappeared quickly, failing to shake hands with the umpire.

"The fog may have had his disagreements with officialdom, but on reflection, he was satisfied with the achievement of reaching a quarter-final in only his third grand-slam tournament after being a first-round loser in the other two."

"Perfect," he agreed, "a very successful tournament for me." He also found some gracious words for his opponent. "He has a good chance," he said. "He doesn't play very fast, but he is very clever."

Gerry Armstrong and Jeremy Shales, two of the longest-serving umpires at the championships, will take charge of this year's singles finals. Armstrong, from East Dean, Sussex, has been given the men's final for the second time, the first being in 1988.



Hings celebrates victory and a place in the women's final yesterday in her usual manner — with a smile

Kournikova's girlish charms cut no ice with the smiling assassin

LYNNE TRUSS



Kicking & Screaming

The game of swapesies made a surprise appearance during the women's singles semi-final between Anna Kournikova and Martina Hings yesterday. It was quite bizarre and not what one really expects at this stage in a tournament.

"So, I'll have one of yours and you have one of mine," seemed to be the deal unofficially struck between the two celebrated 16-year-olds as each obligingly dropped their service game for the other. Down went a broken Hings, down went a broken Kournikova and so on and so on. "OK, so you've got mine and now I get yours, right? Where are we now? 3-3? Well, that's all right then."

Well, we have all made bargains like that in our lives and lived to rue them afterwards, as little Kournikova surely did yesterday. Many a suicide pact has an unexpected bleak result for just one of the participants, when they end up the only one dead. Now, suddenly, with the match standing at a nicely fair 3-3 in the first set, Hings weighed on the deal and decided to win on her own service. Puzzled, Kournikova continued to lose her own service games ("We agreed, remember?"), but Hings has forgotten the rules of swapesies and got carried away.

In the 2min, and with a big Colgate smile, the No 1 seed disposed of Kournikova. Hings smiles when she is angry, you know, and it's spooky. You should always steer clear of people who do that.

After the match, Hings dismissed the idea of a rivalry between herself and the Russian girl. "How is it a rivalry?" she shrugged, smiling. "I beat her." Which you have to admit has a certain clinical logic. Kournikova played well yesterday, though: her drop shots were more cunning and lethal than Hings's (which are as weak as water) and she came up with vastly more original ideas. In the end, I found myself backing Kournikova, partly because she didn't look as bored as Hings and partly because she doesn't have her first name embroidered in curly script on her jacket — an off-putting adjunct to the young Martina that does not accord with the oh-so-mature headband at all.

To be honest, I don't warm to either of them, though for different reasons. As far as Kournikova is concerned, one assumes that female teenage tennis stars — with their long legs and youthful bosoms — have always been assessed as

jail bait, but at least the Russian doesn't make grunting and squeaking noises, which would be too much.

Yet even if other people's perceptions are mainly beyond her control, girlishness can be handled in different ways and the Lolita-ish Kournikova has the very real option of not wearing the sort of dinky hair slides usually favoured by primary-school children. People talk about the clothes (especially the knickers), but it's the pretty Boots hair-slide that really worries me. Facial, she could be eight-years-old and it's a struggle to remind oneself that, at 16, she is old enough to be married.

With Hings, on the other hand, it is a struggle to remember that, at 16, she is too young to drive, since she would look perfectly at home at the wheel of a Centurion tank with a cigarillo between her teeth. Perhaps it's the bandana that confuses things. Every so often, a flash of puppy fat sets me right about her true age, but then I forget again, being so caught up in her adamant ring of confidence. What misleads is the wide, sophisticated un-teeny smile, suggestive of a woman who has seen enough of life to be entertained by setbacks, even when they are her own.

You should watch that grown-up smile, though, because it is often belied by the body language — as petulant as any other teenager's. Hings hurls her racket and smiles; she contests a line call and smiles; she refuses to tidy her acne creams into her Smurfs travelling cosmetics case and smiles. She was just born with a mouth that

doesn't look quite right doing anything else. It's an affliction, in a way.

Considering the match was a semi-final, both young women played with a puzzling lack of zing, as if merely rehearsing for a grander occasion. Which was odd. Kournikova seemed marginally more intent on displaying her abilities, but both were giving nothing away. Teenagers can be very mean sometimes and these two evidently both considered squandering sixpence and then primly decided the pony fund should come first.

Perhaps they were fed up about the meagre crowd, too. Centre Court ticket-holders were miffed about missing the Rusedski and Henman matches, both scheduled for No 1 Court, and instead of turning up for Hings and Kournikova, they sulked in tents outside.

After the match, Kournikova redeemed herself by giving some rather smart answers at the press conference. Did she think she could beat Hings one day at a grand-slam tournament? "Well, anybody can, you know," she said. Did it help to have her mother watching her, knowing she was on her side? "Well," Kournikova said, "it would be funny if she wouldn't be on my side."

What a brilliant answer that was. I have to say I like a girl who can picture her own mother rooting for the opposition. Like her inventive tennis, it belies her baby face and shows she has a rare and precious capacity for lateral thinking.

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What a brilliant answer that was. I have to say I like a girl who can picture her own mother rooting for the opposition. Like her inventive tennis, it belies her baby face and shows she has a rare and precious capacity for lateral thinking.

After the match, Kournikova redeemed herself by giving some rather smart answers at the press conference. Did she think she could beat Hings one day at a grand-slam tournament? "Well, anybody can, you know," she said. Did it help to have her mother watching her, knowing she was on her side? "Well," Kournikova said, "it would be funny if she wouldn't be on my side."

SPORT IN BRIEF

Barrichello blames new tyres for crash

RUBENS BARRICHELLO escaped unhurt from a 175mph crash during testing at Silverstone yesterday and then blamed the incident on new tyre rules in Formula One motor racing. Barrichello, who was trying out a set of the new grooved tyres that will be introduced next year, suffered a rear suspension failure on the entry to Stowe corner in his Stewart-Ford. The 24-year-old Brazilian was pitched into a spin before skipping across a gravel trap and hitting a tyre wall backwards.

"I don't like the new tyres, especially after the experience I have had," Barrichello said afterwards. "Something broke on the rear suspension, which put me into a spin, but if I had been on the new tyres, I would have just spun into the gravel. Silverstone is a safe track, but what if my accident had happened at places where there is not this much safety."

Milton returns

EQUESTRIANISM: Two of Britain's leading show-jumpers, John Whitaker and Geoff Billington, will fulfil dual roles at the Horse of the Year Show at Wembley in September when, in addition to taking part in the competitive classes, they will star in a display, entitled *Simply The Best*, that charts the making of an international rider. *Simply The Best* will include a guest appearance by Whitaker's former partner, Milton.

Rose blossoms in defeat

HOCKEY: A brilliant goalkeeping display by Hilary Rose was not enough to prevent England from losing 2-1 to South Korea in the six nations' tournament in Seoul yesterday. An unstoppable shot by Lee Eun Young two minutes from time helped the Olympic silver medal-winners to their second victory of the tournament. England had taken the lead in the seventeenth minute through Jane Sixsmith, but Lee Ji Young equalised for the hosts after 44 minutes.

Scotland in command

BOWLS: Scotland are in a strong position to win the home international series at Worthing after a thumping 158-85 win over the Channel Islands yesterday saw them record the first 22-0 whitewash using the competition's new points-scoring system. Wales, who defeated Ireland, 129-99 and by 17-5, will need to beat England today if they are to deny Scotland and win the title for the second time in three years.

Silver shoots clear

RIFLE SHOOTING: Three senior NCOs of the RAF Regiment, all former rifle champions, will be in close combat at Bisley today in the fourth round of the RAF service rifle championship. Flt-Sgt Mick Silver will start 12 points ahead of Flt-Sgt Dave Vick, with Sgt John Pictor one point further adrift. In the naval Queen's Medal, WO Tom Sands holds a 33-point lead.

Hodge takes the lead

RUGBY UNION: Scotland go into the final match of their tour of southern Africa today without Andy Nicol, their inspirational captain. Duncan Hodge, the Watsonians stand-off half, takes over the role for the game against Eastern Province in Port Elizabeth. Craig Joiner, the Leicester wing, is also out with a viral infection, but Scotland will be strengthened by the return of Cameron Murray at centre.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Defeat adds extra spur for Edwards

By A CORRESPONDENT

SHAUN EDWARDS will need no motivation when he runs out for London Broncos at the Stoop Memorial Ground tonight to take on Wigan Warriors. The scrum half, who won more honours than anyone in the game during his 13 years at Wigan, is still smarting from the 39-10 defeat that the Broncos suffered at Central Park in May.

"We were embarrassed by the way we performed there," Edwards said. "I think we went into the game a little overconfident because we had been playing well and Wigan hadn't."

That is not the case now and Edwards believes that Wigan are, at present, the best team in the Stoops Super League. "If we give them 60 per cent of possession, we're going to get flogged because they have so many matchwinners that they are going to score a lot of tries."

Edwards paid tribute to Tony Smith, the man signed to replace him. "He's playing some outstanding football at the moment, but I want to show him that there's life in the old dog yet," he said.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

CRICKET

Third Cornhill Test match 11.0, second day of five, 90 overs minimum
OLD TRAFFORD: England v Australia
Britannia Assurance county championship 11.0, third day of four, 104 overs minimum
CHESTER-LE-STREET: Durham v Hampshire
CHELMSFORD: Essex v Somerset
SWANSEA: Glamorgan v Gloucestershire
MADSTON: Kent v Northamptonshire
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Yorkshire
LUXBURY: Middlesex v Lancashire
ARUNDEL: Sussex v Worcestershire
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Surrey

Tour match 11.0, final day of three
TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Pakistan A

University match 11.0, final day of three
LORDS: Oxford v Cambridge

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (first day of four): Cheshire v Derbyshire v Lancashire (first day of three): Bristol Gloucestershire v Surrey, Leicestershire v Warwickshire, Middlesex v Lancashire, Northamptonshire v Kent, Warwickshire v Gloucestershire, Somerset v Glamorgan, Wiltshire v Worcestershire, Yorkshire v Durham

RUGBY UNION

Tour match Eastern Province v Scotland XV (at Telecom Park, Port Elizabeth, 6.01)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stoops Super League London v Wigan (7.30)

First division Dewsbury v Keighley (7.45)

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: Men's home international and British championships (at Worthing, South-west women's national championships (at Kent))
GOLF: Murphy's Irish Open (at Druids Glen, County Wick), Lawrence Bailey Seniors (at Huddersfield)
ROWING: Henley royal regatta
TENNIS: All England Championships (at Wimbledon)

Numbers game conspires to spoil the Broad picture

By Nick Szeczanik

ONE of the side-effects of the downturn of last week that may have escaped the attention of the wider world was the reduction of the Wimbledon men's doubles competition from the usual best-of-five sets to a best-of-three in an effort to fit in the record number of delayed matches from the first week. Only as far as the quarter-finals, mind you — there are standards to be upheld, after all.

However, Neil Broad, Tim Henman's partner and fellow silver medal-winner at the Atlanta Olympic Games, may be wishing that the

competition had remained at three sets for the duration. With two sets played against Martin Damm and Pavel Vizek, of the Czech Republic, Broad and Piet Norval, of South Africa, his regular partner, were leading 6-4, 6-4. That was as good as it got. Broad and Norval going out in five sets, the remaining scores being 6-7, 4-6, 4-6.

For other competitors, the doubles competitions represent a second opportunity to make progress after inevitable, or, in some cases, unexpected early exits from singles competitions. One such is Charlie Rubin, ranked No 31 in the world and a

player of whom much was expected after a return from a long period of injury.

Short of match practice, she arrived at Wimbledon to find herself up against the other teenage focus of media attention, Anna Kournikova. As everyone knows, she made a similarly premature exit, taking just two games in the course of two sets.

The doubles have been her salvation. If she felt she had not played enough games or won enough points to make her visit to these shores worthwhile, the third-round defeat suffered by Rubin and her partner, Brenda Schultz-McCarthy, at the hands of

Hings and Sanchez Vicario, would have changed her mind. She lost 7-6, 6-7, 13-11. In the mixed event, Rubin and Justin Gimelstob, also from the United States, reached the second round with a victory against — small world — Murphy Jensen and none other than Schultz-McCarthy.

Rubin is not an isolated case, of course. Linda Wild, the world No 44, was a first-round loser on an outside court, with all the attention being garnered by her opponent, Karen Cross, the British qualifier. However, with Donald Johnson, she advanced to the second round of the mixed and, seeded No 10 with Nathalie Tauziat,

reached round three before suffering a respectable defeat at the hands of Larisa Nieland and Helena Sukova, the No 4 seeds.

Some players seem just plain greedy, still in three competitions. Until a shoulder injury to her brother and mixed doubles partner, Emilio Sanchez, led to the defaulting of the pair on Wednesday evening, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario was on course for a triple of ladies' singles, mixed doubles and ladies' doubles. Her ladies' doubles partner, Martina Hings, however, had no such misfortune and continued to advance on all fronts.

RUGBY UNION: BATH STAND-OFF CALLED INTO ACTION AS INJURIES TAKE HEAVY TOLL

Catt ready to grab Lions' share

FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN VANDERBILT PARK

MIKE CATT will wear the No 10 jersey for the British Isles in the final match of their tour, against South Africa in Johannesburg tomorrow. For the boy from Port Elizabeth, it will be the crowning moment in his playing career.

Catt, the Bath stand-off, is one of four changes to the XV that clinched the international series in Durban last weekend. Though most of them stem from the injuries that have crowded in on the Lions in the past few days, it is no bad thing for the management to inject new blood in the form of players desperately seeking their hour in the sun.

Catt, 25, replaces Gregor Townsend, who broke down during training on Wednesday with a recurring thigh injury. He will be joined by three other Englishmen — though these Lions disdain national groupings — among them Tony Underwood, who has had to wait until the final match of his second Lions tour before appearing in an international.

Underwood will play instead of Alan Tait on the left wing, the position occupied with distinction by his older brother, Rory, in six successive Lions internationals during 1989 and 1993. It is a position he has earned by applying himself to his defensive duties while losing none of his zest in attack and he will provide the Lions with more pace on the flanks than they enjoyed either in Cape Town or Durban.

In the pack, Mark Regan has recovered his best form to replace Keith Wood at hooker and Neil Back comes in for Richard Hill at open-side flanker. Hill, whose calf was heavily stamped on during the international last Saturday, retreats to the bench in the knowledge that he has already made an immense contribution to the success of this tour, but Back has warranted a place at Ellis Park after a series of riveting displays.



Regan, whose throwing at the lineout has been crucial to his call-up, practises his technique yesterday

It is no coincidence that some of the best rugby played by the Lions has been when Catt has been at stand-off and Back on the flank. Catt's self-confidence, his speed off the mark and the width of his passing have been distinctive features here and, coincidentally, he will oppose the new South Africa pivot, Jannie de Beer, against whom he played when De Beer was a student at Grey's, Bloemfontein, and Catt a pupil at Grey's, Port Elizabeth.

Indeed, when the Lions played the third international of 1980 at the Boet Erasmus stadium in Port Elizabeth, Catt, whose family lived two minutes away, watched as an eight-year-old, "It's another opportunity in life. I have been very fortunate," he said. "One

of my goals, since arriving in England, has been to beat South Africa in South Africa. "I sat on the bench last week and soaked up the atmosphere and that was immense, but actually to walk on the field with the Lions jersey on,

BRITISH ISLES

N R Jenkins (Portsmouth and Wales); J Barber (Newcastle and England); J S Gibbs (Sheff Wed and Wales); J C Guinness (Bath and England); T Underwood (Northampton and England); M J S Smith (Northampton and England); T J Smith (Northampton and England); P P Regan (Bristol and England); P G Wallace (Scarlets and Wales); L B N Dalglish (Wolves and England); M O Johnson (Leicester and England, captain); J W Davidson (London Irish and Ireland); A K Back (London and England); T A K Redder (Northampton and England); R P Jones (Cardiff and Wales); A G Baskin (Richmond and Wales); A Hasky (Leicester and England); S H Williams (Richmond and Wales); O Young (Cardiff and Wales); R A Hill (Scarlets and England).

representing the northern hemisphere in one of the biggest rugby arenas in the world, is something I have never done. It's great to have the talent we have here, it's something I thrive on. These are top-class players playing the sort of game I enjoy and although we will probably have to tighten up a bit, I will still hope to take opportunities when they arise.

"I don't mean we should go out and play Barbarian rugby, but we need to get continually going as early as possible so we can create space out wide or go through the middle with Scott Gibbs. But to do that, we must have the ball and that means more hard graft for the forwards."

Regan, the Bristol hooker, has seen how his front-row

colleagues have applied themselves in the first two internationals and will be in no mood to let the side down. He slid to third choice during the first half of the tour, behind Barrie Williams as well as Wood, but started to dig his way back against the Emerging Springboks and clinched the issue against Northern Free State on Tuesday, while Williams had a comparatively anonymous game against Free State in Bloemfontein.

"Mark's throwing at the lineout has been excellent and we were delighted with his all-round play on Tuesday," Ian McGeechan, the coach, said. "The set-pieces will be key again, but we were looking to try and put more flexibility into what we can do with possession."

FOOTBALL

Celtic go Dutch with Jansen

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

CELTIC ended weeks of speculation yesterday by naming Wim Jansen, the former Feyenoord coach, as their new head coach. Jansen's appointment, ten weeks after the dismissal of Tommy Burns, followed swiftly an announcement in Portugal that Artur Jorge would remain in charge of the national side. Jorge had been widely tipped for the Celtic job.

Jansen, who has also

coached Sanfrecce Hiroshima, of the J-League in Japan, has signed a three-year contract at Celtic Park. He will meet his new players during a three-match pre-season tour of Holland, which has just started.

Jansen, 53, was in the Feyenoord side that beat Celtic 2-1 in the 1970 European Cup final. "It is a big challenge that I welcome. Celtic has always had a special place in my

memories," Jansen said. "They were involved in the greatest day of my career — the 1970 European Cup final against Feyenoord — and I want to bring Celtic back to the highest level. I am delighted to be joining such a famous club."

Fergus McCann, the managing director, said: "This appointment is of considerable importance to everyone who cares about Celtic. That is why it has been important not to make a quick and careless decision."

Fabrizio Ravanelli is facing disciplinary action from Middlesbrough after failing to report back for training yesterday. The Italian striker, who is expected to leave the club before the start of the season, has already said that he will not play for Middlesbrough again after their relegation from the FA Carling Premiership.

Liverpool, Everton and Borussia Dortmund are all reported to be interested in signing Ravanelli, but with no official bid received, Middlesbrough will fine and possibly suspend him if no reasonable explanation is forthcoming.

Sasa Curcic, the Aston Villa midfielder, was another import to miss the start of training. Curcic, who is on the transfer list, is stranded in Spain with an expired visa. "It is sloppy more than anything else. He has simply forgotten to renew his visa," Brian Little, the Villa manager, said.

Alan Thompson, the Bolton Wanderers midfielder, has agreed an extension to his contract that will keep him at the club until the end of the 1999-2000 season.

ATHLETICS

Backley values medal chase over gold rush

FROM DAVID POWELL IN OSLO

STEVE BACKLEY put world championship gold ahead of gold bars yesterday when he withdrew from the Bisset Games that take place here tonight. Backley, the world No 1 on present form, pulled out of a chance to win up to \$250,000 (about £150,000) in gold bars rather than risk his prospects for the world championships in Athens next month.

The Bisset Games is the first of the "golden four" meetings, comprising the grands prix of Oslo, Zurich, Brussels and Berlin. Athletes who win at all four venues, in any of the ten designated events, share 20 one-kilogram gold bars. The javelin is a designated event this summer.

However, swollen glands, which flared up after his victory in the British grand prix at Sheffield on Sunday, prevented Backley from being here to see whether he could repeat his victory over Jan Zelezny, the Olympic and world champion, from the Czech Republic, in Helsinki two weeks ago. That win set Backley on a run of three successive victories, including the European Cup title. Now the Briton's momentum has been interrupted, though his withdrawal is more precautionary than anything.

"The difference between now and five years ago is that Steve would probably have tried to do the meeting," John Trower, Backley's coach, said. "Now the world championships are all that count."

Marie-José Perce's an-

nouncement that she will not be going to Athens to defend her 400 metres title will heighten temptation for the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) to invite all its reigning world champions, whether or not they have been selected by their national teams.

Perce, like Michael John-



Backley: precaution

metres and 400 metres at the Olympic Games last year and Johnson's failure to qualify for the Athens Games. The IAAF is facing the unsatisfactory position of being without its two star turns from Atlanta. By this time of year, the sport is normally well into its stride of world records, but with the appalling weather at every European grand prix so far this season, there has not been one. The sun shone here yesterday, however, and, if the weather holds today, Haile Gebrselassie, of Ethiopia, may claim the 10,000 metres record.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 42

VALETUDINARIAN

(a) An invalid — more especially one with a tendency to hypochondria.

DIASKEUAUST

(a) Somebody who prepares material in detail. Thus a researcher, editor, sub-editor, etc. From the Greek for "researcher who prepares things". There is really nothing to being a journo diaskeuast. You simply check all facts and spellings, cut the first and last sentences of every article, and remove all attempts at jokes.

ADVISEDLY

(a) With conscious intent, deliberately, on purpose (of words and phrases so used "advisedly"). It is odd that it should have got this meaning, since 99.99 per cent of the time words used advisedly are so used not because of advice given by others but one's own basis of the speaker's own pig-headed convictions.

PASTIME

(c) A game or recreation. Derived, believe it or not, from pass and time.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

No. The most incisive is 1... Bc2! Qb1 (White does not have a good move, e.g. 2 Qh1 Nd1 and wins) 2... Nd1 3 Kh1 Rf1 and wins.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Scenes from a castle

Garden Party
Channel 4, 8.00pm

The jury may still be out on the format but the programme has steadily gained in polish and authority since a nervous start last year. The lingering question is about involving members of the public in demonstrations of gardening know-how. It is fine in theory to let ordinary gardeners come before the camera to vent their problems but it can make for stodgy television. This week the advice is being dispensed from Sudeley Castle in the Cotswolds, one of the finest locations for the series so far. Boasting a history which goes back to Henry VI, and with 20th-century contributions from designers such as Lanning, Roger, John Coddington and Rosemary Verey, the gardens are particularly noted for their collection of old-fashioned roses. The resident host, Tom Barber, is joined by Carol Klein and Sue Phillips.

Ant's Sporting Bloomers
BBC1, 8.30pm

Tonight's anthology of gaffs is recommended not because the quality is any better or worse than usual but to salute a watertight formula. Given that sportspeople are as likely to make fools of themselves as those who sit in the commentary box, the series could probably run for ever. Cricket features strongly in this latest collection, with Chris Cowdrey as the studio guest. But some of the best cricketing bloopers have been on radio, mostly perpetrated by the late Brian Johnston. His fit of giggles over an unfortunate description of a Bottom dismissed is a classic. But back to the box where we also see an Irish rugby player having his shorts ripped off and the German keeper who saved that Stuart Pearce penalty embarrassed by a soft goal. What a pity that Terry Wogan's links are so laboured.

Horizon Special: Destination Mars
BBC2, 8.35pm

This evening the American Pathfinder probe is due to land on Mars. It is the signal for three days of programmes on BBC2 with this *Horizon* film setting the scene. It goes back to the 1960s, when the United States and the Soviet Union were competing in space as furiously as they were waging the Cold War on Earth. Even as the Cuban



Popular pals (C4, 9.00pm)

missile crisis threatened to set off a nuclear war, the USSR launched Mars 1 and the Americans replied with the first of many Mariner unmanned spacecraft. The triumphs (few) and disasters (frequent) are recalled by participants on both sides. But the huge question is whether the ample photographic evidence of riverbeds, volcanoes and rift valleys can support a theory of life on Mars. Nobody expects Pathfinder to come up with the answer but its trip should still be worthwhile.

Friends
Channel 4, 9.00pm

There has been a considerable media debate since *Friends* was last on the air, with opinion divided as to whether it is one of the best sitcoms ever or unwatchable rubbish. This column goes to neither extreme. *Friends* has the strengths of American television comedy, as well as the weaknesses. On the credit side are the pace and the energy and the sharp one-liners, but there is also an impersonal, assembly-line feel. It is no surprise that the series has a huge writing team, whereas in Britain most sitcoms are delivered by one writer or at most two. But in the end it comes down to whether these friends, professionally-aspiring flat-sharing New Yorkers eternally moving in and out of relationships, are your sort of friends. The guess is that the show is mostly watched by its own generation, the under-30s, but this could be quite wrong.

RADIO CHOICE

Sounding the Century: The Illuminati
Radio 3, 10.20pm

The last in a short series about the intellectual movements which have helped to shape the 20th century, a series which has had the incidental benefit of underlining the fact that continental Europe and the US tend to be the habitat of movements whereas Britain has produced more in the way of significant individuals. Tonight's programme, presented by Michael Ignatieff, considers the Sante Re Institute, which was founded 13 years ago in New Mexico by a group of scientists frustrated by the lack of action in their 'day job' at Los Alamos, where the atomic bomb was developed. The best-known product of the Sante Re group, who are still widely regarded as faddists, is their work in developing chaos theory.

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 8.00am Shona Mayo 12.00am Maye Anna Hobbs 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00pm Kevin Gunning 6.15pm News 6.30pm Pete Tong 7.00pm Essential Selection 10.00pm One in the Jungle 12.00am Radio 1 Rap Show with Tim Westwood 3.00am Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

6.00am Charles Nove 7.30am Sarah Kennedy 9.30am Alan Lester 11.30am Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thorne 3.00pm Ed Sheeran 5.00pm John Durr 7.00pm Hubert Gregg 7.30pm Friday Night in Music 9.00pm From the Hippodrome in Golden Green, featuring the BBC Concert Orchestra, under Barry Wordsworth 11.15pm Bom Free 9.30pm Listen to the Band 10.00pm Sheridan Morley

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00am The Magazine 12.00pm Midday News 1.00pm Wimbledon 97 8.00pm The Sportsman's Special 9.00pm The Sportsman's Special 10.00pm The Sportsman's Special 11.00pm The Sportsman's Special 12.00pm The Sportsman's Special 1.00pm The Sportsman's Special 2.00pm The Sportsman's Special 3.00pm The Sportsman's Special 4.00pm The Sportsman's Special 5.00pm The Sportsman's Special 6.00pm The Sportsman's Special 7.00pm The Sportsman's Special 8.00pm The Sportsman's Special 9.00pm The Sportsman's Special 10.00pm The Sportsman's Special 11.00pm The Sportsman's Special 12.00pm The Sportsman's Special 1.00pm The Sportsman's Special 2.00pm The Sportsman's Special 3.00pm The Sportsman's Special 4.00pm The Sportsman's Special 5.00pm The Sportsman's Special 6.00pm The Sportsman's Special 7.00pm The Sportsman's Special 8.00pm The Sportsman's Special 9.00pm The Sportsman's Special 10.00pm The Sportsman's Special 11.00pm The Sportsman's Special 12.00pm 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The Sportsman's Special 1.00pm The Sportsman's Special 2.00pm The Sportsman's Special 3

Kill off the leading man? A blissful idea

Pneumonic plague. I now know, is a nasty illness. It begins with a cough and ends, a few highly unpleasant hours later, with a single, it's the sort of contagious disease that you wouldn't wish on anybody. Except, possibly, Dr Sam Bliss.

For a moment last night, as the final episode of *Bliss* (TV) neared its end, there was a hope. A plague threatening to wipe out the population of a small Welsh village, and eventually, Britain, your hero (really, I want to put of him) swallowed the experimental, genetically engineered vaccine from Porton Down. With that he kissed his already dying love-interest, Dr Melanie Kilpatrick, and snuggled up to her. In a church. Die, die, I hissed. But on the next day, he rose again — plague-free. He had saved Norfolk, Britain and quite possibly the world. Imagine how annoying this self-important prig will be next time.

The problem with *Bliss*, you see, is Bliss (Simon Shepherd). He's ghastly. Without him, you could forgive plots like last night's, which was part-*Quatermass*, part-*Dr. Who* and especially part-*Doomwatch*, from the early 1970s. Plague returns to Britain — it's a perfectly good story and Simon Eden, the writer, had given it a decent enough twist by making it pneumatic rather than run-of-the-mill bubonic.

But Bliss had to come along, summoned by an elderly pathologist who ought to have known better, and suck his interfering nose in. Within minutes the local GP discovered what we learnt weeks ago — that Bliss is a character, including being know-all. Do this, do that. Eventually, said GP, turned away. "What gives you the right to contradict me in front of my patients?" I cheered. "What gives you the right to put patients' lives at risk?" replied

Bliss (boo), demonstrating the bedside manner that sent him into full-time research. Later, said GP was shot dead by the Army (I looked for Brigadier Lethbridge-Stewart), so that was all right.

A one of TV's small band of leading men, Shepherd ought to have been able to make Bliss somebody we might want to spend at least a little time with. But the writers and producers made a difficult task all but impossible by creating an infallible bore, a man who could diagnose plague in two minutes, who could not only identify *Lepus solaris*, but knew its full, hermetic history, and who was bang up to speed with the latest top-secret research from Porton Down.

Above all, however, it is Bliss's unique talent for musing in front of other people's problems that made him such an extraordinary pain. "Excuse me, who's in charge

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

here?" he asked last night, in that irritating, jobsworth manner which in real life would ensure that he got thumped several times an episode. As for the awful prospect of another series, I can only embrace the melodramatic vernacular: "All we can do now is wait... and pray."

The problem with *The Last Governor* (BBC1) was very different — Chris Patten is, after all,

widely held to be an all-round nice guy. The problem is the choice of narrative tense. This five part series cries out to have been shown in the run-up to the handover of Hong Kong, but the impressive access enjoyed by Jonathan Dimbleby presumably made that impossible. The result is a series that has arrived three days too late to be current affairs and three years too early to be history, especially as Dimbleby seems reluctant to conclude whether his friend was a good or a bad thing.

Tense also arose as a problem from the film's partly fly-on-the-wall format, in that the events of five years ago were told in the present tense, through contemporary chats with Patten and interviews with members of Hong Kong's business and political community. Just when you thought you were getting the hang of it, Dimbleby would crop up in the present, to put the recent past in

some sort of historical perspective. This "history in the making" lark is not as easy as it looks.

The result was occasionally confusing, disappointing for those hoping for more than a tantalising glimpse of a Patten daughter, but thoroughly absorbing. Many of the difficult questions we asked ourselves on Monday evening as we watched the Prince of Wales getting soaked, such as "so why was Hong Kong British?" were answered, but not — or not yet — the most difficult. Did Patten weep because he was leaving, or because he had failed?

Despite the friendly nature of the film (last night it was established that Patten and Dimbleby at least cross croquet mallets socially), it was impossible not to incline towards the latter. It seemed that the "through train of democracy" that Patten talked about so much had indeed been derailed by the

Chinese and that the local tycoons had been proved right in believing that there was no point in antagonising the Chinese. But perhaps, in subsequent episodes, we shall learn that the important thing was to have tried.

Finally, Channel 4 offered us A Bill Called William, a rather nicely made film marking the 30th anniversary of the passing of the 1967 Sexual Offences Act. Viscount Norwich supplied some fairly unrepeatable humour, and an impressive cast of politicians — Leo Abse, Tam Dalyell, Barbara Castle, Roy Jenkins, Teddy Taylor — recalled their respective contributions to the legislative process against a billowing backdrop of muscled male torso. There was also a great soundtrack, confirming that the Devil has indeed passed on the best tunes to the gay community. Together, apparently, with some Neil Sedaka records he didn't want.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (53655)
 - 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (58013)
 - 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (1) (578094)
 - 9.20 Ready, Steady, Cook (1) (1104100)
 - 9.50 Kilroy (1) (583268)
 - 10.30 Gloria's Time Off with Cilla Black (263723)
 - 10.45 News (1) Regional News and weather (581094)
 - 10.50 Cricket: Third Test England v Australia. Tony Blair introduces coverage of the opening session of day two. The Old Trafford. Continues on BBC2 (5161765)
 - 12.35pm Neighbours (1) (582734)
 - 1.00 News (1) and weather (51100)
 - 1.30 Regional News (1) (5826217)
 - 1.40 Wimbledon 97. Live coverage of the men's singles semi-finals (3821891)
 - 4.10 To Me—To You (1) (449297) 4.30 Claretta Explains It All (1) (1) (583463)
 - 5.00 Newsround (1) (1470704) 5.30 Record Breakers (1) (1) (4088817)
 - 5.35 Neighbours (1) (1) (514029)
 - 6.00 News (1) and weather (507)
 - 6.30 Regional News Magazine (57) WALSLEY. 6.55 Budget Response by Field-Cyril (581452)
 - 7.00 Big Break Trick Shot Special. Introduced by Jim Davidson and John Virgo with guests Willie Thorne and Dennis Taylor, golfing ace Sam Torrance and American trick-shot specialist Mike Massey (1) (5278)
 - 7.30 Top of the Pops. The best of the current chart songs and live performances (1) (471)
 - 8.00 Porridge: A Day Out. The inmates have a day of hard labour digging drains on the Cumberland moors. With Ronnie Barker and Richard Beckinsale (1) (1) (4928)
 - 8.30 Auntie's Sporting Business. Terry Wogan, representing a humorous look at the embroiled things that happen to sports personalities (1) (543)
 - 10.00 News (1) Regional News and weather (5013)
 - 10.30 Budget Response by the Liberal Democrats (1) (585536)
 - 10.50 One Foot in the Grave. Monday Morning Will Be Fine. Victor returns from the supermarket to find his house has been ransacked by burglars (1) (1) (141817)
 - 10.55 Today at Wimbledon. Sue Barker presents highlights from the men's singles semi-finals (583591)
 - 11.00 Dadsy. Identity (1997). With Mark Hamill, Peter Onorati and Paul Gleason. When a man vanishes, the detective hired to find him falls for the missing man's wife. But then a mysterious secret haunts him. Directed by Ivan Passer (57781549)
 - 11.50 The Beast with Five Fingers (1946). b/w. With Peter Lorre, Andrea King and Robert Alda. A retired convict, played living in a remote village in Italy, is a sudden death in mysterious circumstances. The will, which leaves all his wealth to his private nurse, is immediately contested, sparking the arrival of a menacing creature — a murderous hand. Directed by Robert Florey (5007769)
 - 12.45 Weather (520338)

- BBC2**
- 6.00am Open University: A Migrant's Heart (736458) 6.25 Questions of National Identity (583955)
 - 7.15 See News. Breakfast News (1) and signing (5822384)
 - 7.30 Moomin. (1) (7348742) 7.55 The Adventures of Skippy (1) (585084) 8.20 M4 Story (1) (5867075) 8.35 The Record (583704)
 - 9.00 Yesterday at Wimbledon Ladies' singles semi-finals highlights (58384)
 - 10.00 The World: Under the Sea (1996). With Lloyd Bridges, Shirley Eaton, David Kelly and David McCallum. So it's about the adventures of the crew of a British submarine as they travel the world's oceans in search of half-sunken wreckage and secrets. Directed by Andrew Stanton (4391162)
 - 12.25pm Jonathan Jones (1) (585497)
 - 12.30 Wimbledon 97 and Cricket Tennis. Desmond Lynn and Sue Barker present action from the 12th day in SW16, when the semi-finals of the men's singles and ladies' doubles are scheduled weather permitting. Further coverage of the second day of the third Test between England and Australia includes News and weather at 3.00 and 3.55 (532378)
 - 3.30 A Weekend on Miss Clive Anderson. A look at an evening of documentaries to celebrate the birthday of News's Pathfinder robot on Mars (1) (733433)
 - 6.35 Horizon Special: Destination Mars. The story of three decades of Mars exploration from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Russia's Lunokhod to the team monitoring Pathfinder's every move (1) (58154)
 - 9.30 MARS to Clive Anderson. The news from Mars as it happens. Clive will be joined in the studio by Patrick Moore, British scientist and Mars expert Dr Monica Grady, and British astronaut Mike Foale, interviewed via satellite as he orbits Earth in the Russian space station Mir (1) (582365)
 - 10.10 What Have the Martians Ever Done for Us. Comedy clips featuring aliens (587655) Followed by UK Image (375007)
 - 10.20 Space Jammin'. Records that have been dedicated to Martians (255443)
 - 10.30 Newswatch (1) (321384)
 - 11.20 Budget Response by the Liberal Democrats (1) (574911)
 - 11.25 The A Force. Roy Diamond hosts the black entertainment series, interviewing Michelle Gayle (577452) Followed by Weather.
 - 1.00am Warm Nights on a Slow Moving Train (1987). A young woman turns to prostitution to help support her disabled brother. Steamy drama with Wendy Hughes. Directed by Bob Ellis (70582) Ends at 2.30

- BBC3**
- 6.00am GMTV (493100)
 - 9.25 Supermarket Sweep (1105638)
 - 9.55 Regional News (581755)
 - 10.00 The Time, the Place (40461)
 - 10.30 This Morning (583958)
 - 12.20pm Your Show (5850471)
 - 12.35 Regional News (5859742)
 - 12.50 News (1) and weather (5820471)
 - 12.55 Regional News (5821162)
 - 1.25 Home and Away (1) (5798307) 1.50 London Bridge (1) (5820517) 2.50 High Road (579529)
 - 3.20 News (1321588)
 - 3.25 Regional News (1320383)
 - 3.30 Rosie and Jim (4202013) 3.40 Cartoon Time (1911636) 3.50 The Treadle People (1900520) 4.00 Zzzap (4546723) 4.15 The Real Ghostbusters (463353) 4.40 Get Wet (585568)
 - 5.10 The Totally Friday Show (1024471)
 - 5.40 News (1) and weather (484807)
 - 6.00 Home and Away (1) (1) (463742)
 - 6.20 London Weekend Tonight (1) (515838)
 - 7.00 Lucy Numbers (1) (7966)
 - 7.30 Coronation Street. The Websters face a harrowing time when little Rosie goes missing (1) (539)
 - 8.00 The Bill. Day and Skase grow suspicious of a bill of lading from a jeweller dealing in stolen goods (1) (904)
 - 8.30 Surprise! Surprise! Cilla Black returns with a new series of the popular entertainment show (1) (58023)
 - 9.30 Tarnet-on TV. Chris Tarnet presents his long-run-in-check overview of global television (1) (58389)
 - 10.00 News (1) and weather (57452)
 - 10.29 LWT Weather (582433)
 - 10.30 Budget '97. The Liberal Democrats' response (1) (583549)
 - 10.40 Crime Fighters. New series following the work of the police in the past decade (474704)
 - 11.10 Capital Cafe. New live entertainment show featuring music and chat (508181) (8071501)
 - 12.40am London Weekend Tonight (1) (581501)
 - 1.00 Presumed Guilty (1991). Drama based on real events, with Martin Sheen, Brendan Fraser, Carolyn Kane and Mark Metcalfe. A teenager is wrongly convicted of murder, prompting his father to set about clearing the lad's name. Directed by Paul Verhoeven (700211)
 - 2.35 The LADS New series celebrating last culture (1) (2198989)
 - 3.05 Bonkers (1) (5837018)
 - 4.00 Heller Skelter (1) (1553038)
 - 4.50 Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (1) (2225214)
 - 5.20 Jones and Jury (5748292)
 - 5.30 News (58350)

- BBC4**
- 12.55-1.25 Shortland Street (5281162)
 - 1.50 Surprise! Surprise! Cilla Black returns with a new series of the popular entertainment show (1) (58023)
 - 2.20 Put it to the Test (58789452)
 - 2.50-3.20 Serve You Right (5796029)
 - 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1024471)
 - 6.00 Meridian Tonight (12384)
 - 10.29 Pollen Count (582433)
 - 10.30 Meridian News and Weather (537159)
 - 10.50 Highlander (518033)
 - 11.50 Wiseguy (255162)
 - 12.45am Campus Cops (3256389)
 - 1.10 Film: Silhouette (582292)
 - 2.45 Bonkers (582747)
 - 3.45 Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (5844938)
 - 4.10 Heller Skelter (1534360)
 - 5.00 Freecross (30143)
- CENTRAL**
- As London except:
 - 12.55-1.25 Country Practice (5821162)
 - 1.50 Murder, She Wrote (4854471)
 - 2.40-3.20 Streets from the Secret Garden (779162)
 - 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1024471)
 - 6.25-7.00 Central News (519839)
 - 10.45 Film: In the Line of Duty: Mob Justice (23057)
 - 4.45am Central Jobfinder '97 (4108308)
 - 5.20 Asian Eye (574822)
- CENTRAL**
- As London except:
 - 12.55pm Anglia Air Watch (5833758)
 - 12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (5821162)
 - 1.50 Murder, She Wrote (5828636)
 - 2.50-3.20 Countrywide (5796029)
 - 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1024471)
 - 6.25 Anglia Weather (152597)
 - 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (519839)
 - 10.30 Anglia News and Weather (537159)
 - 10.50 Film: Knight Moves (1256239)
 - 1.00am Short Sharp Shoos (5834495)
 - 1.10 Film: Silhouette (582292)
 - 2.45 Bonkers (582747)
 - 3.45 Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (5844938)
 - 4.10 Heller Skelter (1534360)
 - 5.00 Coronation Street (30143)
- ITV WEST**
- As London except:
 - 12.55pm-1.25 Designed by Emanuel (5821162)
 - 1.50 Murder, She Wrote (5820517)
 - 2.45 HTV Grimestoppers (151907)
 - 2.50-3.20 Garden Calendar (5796029)
 - 5.10-5.40 A Country Practice (1024471)
 - 5.57-6.00 HTV Pollen Count (180452)
 - 6.25 HTV Weather (154568)
 - 6.30-7.00 The West Tonight (555)
 - 10.30 The West Tonight Update (583549)
 - 10.39 HTV Pollen Count (23072)
 - 10.45 Who Killed Cabot? (58013)
 - 11.20 Videotech (13481)
 - 12.20am Live at the Ashtoria (3564940)
 - 1.10 Film: Silhouette (582292)
 - 2.45 Bonkers (582747)
 - 3.45 Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (5844938)
 - 4.10 Heller Skelter (1534360)
 - 5.00 Coronation Street (30143)

- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.00am Sesame Street (1) (46365) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (41723) 9.00 Switched (1) (77029) 9.30 Metropolis (1) (32891)
 - 10.30 Frontline Marshall (1939, b/w) with Randolph Scott and Cesar Romero. A retelling of the shootout at the OK Corral. Directed by Alan Dean (577433)
 - 11.45 Cow on the Loose (5808384) 12.00 Garden Party (1) (1) (54365) 12.30pm Caroline in the City (1) (11907) 1.00 Springfield (1) (44810)
 - 1.30 Lancashire Coast A 1955 travelogue (2679907)
 - 1.45 Tracks of Glory (1991) with Phil Morris and Richard Roxburgh. Conclusion of the Australian fact-based drama that began yesterday. Directed by Marcus Cole (5827704)
 - 3.30 Here's One I Made Earlier (1) (433) 4.00 Fitter-to-One (1) (568) 4.30 Countdown (1) (5828075) 4.55 Ricki Lake (1) (2351758) 5.30 Pet Rescue. A golden retriever puppy is rescued (1) (704)
 - 6.00 The Avengers (1) (1) (29262)
 - 7.00 Channel 4 News (1) (753100)
 - 7.50 Singles. A Madonna lookalike visits the singles bar (526384)
 - 8.00 Garden Party. The team visit the gardens of Sudeley Castle in Gloucestershire (1) (7638)
 - 8.30 Brookside. The Johnsons bid an emotional farewell to Gladys, and the wait is finally over for Jackie and Jimmy (1) (5471)
 - 9.00 Friends: The One with the Princess Leia Fantasy. The comedy series returns with Ross confiding a sexual fantasy to Rachel (1) (5723)
 - 9.30 Cybill: Sex, Drugs and Catholicism. Cybill and Maryann meet Holly, her new girlfriend (1) (24471)
 - 10.00 Frasier: Can't Buy Me Love. The radio shrink agrees to be a "biddable date" at a celebrity charity auction (1) (58094)
 - 10.30 Harry Hill. Sketches and stand-up comedy (5/8) (1) (581100)
- CHANNEL 5**
- Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocassette recorder will be able to receive the channel's coverage. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz.
 - 6.00am 5 News Early (5752520)
 - 7.30 Haverlock (5755907) 8.00 Adventures of the Bush Patrol (7485704) 8.30 WideWorld (7484075)
 - 9.00 Espresso (3185365) 10.00 Hospital Live (1) (5164075) 10.30 The Car Show (1) (704839)
 - 11.00 Lezza (5046525) 11.50 Double Espresso (19897013) 12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (1) (7488891) 12.30pm Family Affairs (1) (1) (406549)
 - 1.00 5 News Update (1) (11162425) 1.05 Sunset Beach (1) (502636) 2.00 5 News Company (5075891)

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- BOYD AND LOREN (3.30pm)**
- 3.30 The Fall of the Roman Empire (1964). Conclusion of the historical epic, with Sophia Loren and Stephen Boyd. Directed by Anthony Mann (1501636)
 - 5.20 Hospital Live from Guy's (5812548)
 - 5.30 100 Per Cent (7905023)
 - 6.00 Move on Up (1) (7822742)
 - 6.30 Family Affairs (1) (7813094)
 - 7.00 Hospital Live in the final programme, former patients explain how their lives have dramatically improved since they received organ transplants (5172433)
 - 7.30 Treasure Islands: Island of the Bears. A look at the brown bears of Alaska (1) (781278)
 - 8.00 Attractions. Featuring the American Adventure World theme park in Derbyshire, the London Aquarium and Madame Tussauds (1) (581181)
 - 8.30 5 News (1) (5177988)
 - 9.00 The Other Woman (1994). With Jill Eikenberry and Lloyd Bridges. Melodrama about a divorced mother-of-two who learns that she has cancer. Directed by Gabrielle Beaumont (5837384)
 - 10.50 The Jack Docherty Show (5819452)
 - 11.35 Prisoner: Cell Block H (4409887)
 - 12.35am Confessions of a Driving Instructor (1978). Adult comedy with Robin Askin, Anthony Booth and Windsor Davies. Directed by Norman Cohen (5358143)
 - 2.15 The Road Home (1989). Drama with Donald Sutherland. Directed by Hugh Hudson (7121308)
 - 4.15 The Plough and the Stars (1936, b/w) with Barbara Stanwyck, Preston Foster and Barry Fitzgerald. Adaptation of Sean Casey's emotive play, directed by John Ford (5184078)
 - 5.30 100 Per Cent (1) (3162230)

- For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday.**
- Y1**
- Teen Morning Glory (584433) 9.00 Regis Kellie Lee (22581) 10.00 From 12.00: 11.00 Days of Our Lives (582204) 12.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 1.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 2.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 3.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 4.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 5.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 6.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 7.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 8.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 9.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 10.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 11.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 12.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204)
- Y2**
- Teen Morning Glory (584433) 9.00 Regis Kellie Lee (22581) 10.00 From 12.00: 11.00 Days of Our Lives (582204) 12.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 1.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 2.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 3.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 4.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 5.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 6.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 7.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 8.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 9.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 10.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 11.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 12.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204)
- Y3**
- Teen Morning Glory (584433) 9.00 Regis Kellie Lee (22581) 10.00 From 12.00: 11.00 Days of Our Lives (582204) 12.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 1.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 2.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 3.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 4.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 5.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 6.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 7.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 8.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 9.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 10.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 11.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204) 12.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (582204)

- SKY MOVIES GOLD**
- 6.00am Action (1978) (2281412) 6.25 The Naked Gun (1988) (5739459) 10.00 Born on the Fourth of July (1989) (582204) 12.00 The Untouchables (1959) (582204) 1.00pm The Untouchables (1959) (582204) 2.00pm The Untouchables (1959) (582204) 3.00pm The Untouchables (1959) (582204) 4.00pm The Untouchables (1959) (582204) 5.00pm The Untouchables (1959) (582204) 6.00pm The Untouchables (1959) (582204) 7.00pm The Untouchables (1959) (582204) 8.00pm The Untouchables (1959) (582204) 9.00pm The Untouchables (1959) (582204) 10.00pm The Untouchables (1959) (582204) 11.00pm The Untouchables (1959) (582204) 12.00pm The Untouchables (1959) (582204)
- TNT**
- 6.00pm WCW Monday Night Raw (5727707) 6.00 The Gypsy Moths (1996) (5722004) 11.00 The Battle of the Sexes (1989) (5876207) 12.00 What a Catch Up (1982) (5876207) 1.00pm What a Catch Up (1982) (5876207) 1.35pm Desperate Search (1995) (5845452) 3.10-4.00 The Gypsy Moths (1996) (5722004)
- SKY SPORTS 1**
- 7.00am Sports Centre (25649) 7.30 Westside Supersports (57658) 8.30 Racing News (582204) 9.00 Sports Centre (582204) 9.30 Sports Centre (582204) 10.00 Sports Centre (582204) 10.30 Sports Centre (582204) 11.00 Sports Centre (582204) 11.30 Sports Centre (582204) 12.00 Sports Centre (582204) 12.30 Sports Centre (582204) 1.00am Sports Centre (582204) 1.30am Sports Centre (582204) 2.00am Sports Centre (582204) 2.30am Sports Centre (582204) 3.00am Sports Centre (582204) 3.30am Sports Centre (582204) 4.00am Sports Centre (582204) 4.30am Sports Centre (582204) 5.00am Sports Centre (582204) 5.30am Sports Centre (582204) 6.00am Sports Centre (582204) 6.30am Sports Centre (582204) 7.00am Sports Centre (582204) 7.30am Sports Centre (582204) 8.00am Sports Centre (582204) 8.30am Sports Centre (582204) 9.00am Sports Centre (582204) 9.30am Sports Centre (582204) 10.00am Sports Centre (582204) 10.30am Sports Centre (582204) 11.00am Sports Centre (582204) 11.30am Sports Centre (582204) 12.00am Sports Centre (582204) 12.30am Sports Centre (582204) 1.00am Sports Centre (582204) 1.30am Sports Centre (582204) 2.00am Sports Centre (582204) 2.30am Sports Centre (582204) 3.00am Sports Centre (582204) 3.30am Sports Centre (582204) 4.00am Sports Centre (582204) 4.30am Sports Centre (582204) 5.00am Sports Centre (582204) 5.30am Sports Centre (582204) 6.00am Sports Centre (582204) 6.30am Sports Centre (582204) 7.00am Sports Centre (582204) 7.30am Sports Centre (582204) 8.00am Sports Centre (582204) 8.30am Sports Centre (582204) 9.00am Sports Centre (582204) 9.30am Sports Centre (582204) 10.00am Sports Centre (582204) 10.30am Sports Centre (582204) 11.00am Sports Centre (582204) 11.30am Sports Centre (582204) 12.00am Sports Centre (582204) 12.30am Sports Centre (582204) 1.00am Sports Centre (582204) 1.30am Sports Centre (582204) 2.00am Sports Centre (582204) 2.30am Sports Centre (582204) 3.00am Sports Centre (582204) 3.30am Sports Centre (582204) 4.00am Sports Centre (582204) 4.30am Sports Centre (582204) 5.00am Sports Centre (582204) 5.30am Sports Centre (582204) 6.00am Sports Centre (582204) 6.30am Sports Centre (582204) 7.00am Sports Centre (582204) 7.30am Sports Centre (582204) 8.00am Sports Centre (582204) 8.30am Sports Centre (582204) 9.00am Sports Centre (582204) 9.30am Sports Centre (582204) 10.00am Sports Centre (582204) 10.30am Sports Centre (582204) 11.00am Sports Centre (582204) 11.30am Sports Centre (582204) 12.00am Sports Centre (582204) 12.30am Sports Centre (582204) 1.00am Sports Centre (582204) 1.30am Sports Centre (582204) 2.00am Sports Centre (582204) 2.30am Sports Centre (582204) 3.00am Sports Centre (582204) 3.30am Sports Centre (582204) 4.00am Sports Centre (582204) 4.30am Sports Centre (582204) 5.00am Sports Centre (582204) 5.30am Sports Centre (582204) 6.00am Sports Centre (582204) 6.30am Sports Centre (582204) 7.00am Sports Centre (582204) 7.30am Sports Centre (582204) 8.00am Sports Centre (582204) 8.30am Sports Centre (582204) 9.00am Sports Centre (582204) 9.30am Sports Centre (582204) 10.00am Sports Centre (582204) 10.30am Sports Centre (582204) 11.00am Sports Centre (582204) 11.30am Sports Centre (582204) 12.00am Sports Centre (582204) 12.30am Sports Centre (582204) 1.00am Sports Centre (582204) 1.30am Sports Centre (582204) 2.00am Sports Centre (582204) 2.30am Sports Centre (582204) 3.00am Sports Centre (582204) 3.30am Sports Centre (582204) 4.00am Sports Centre (582204) 4.30am Sports Centre (582204) 5.00am Sports Centre (582204) 5.30am Sports Centre (582204) 6.00am Sports Centre (582204) 6.30am Sports Centre (582204) 7.00am Sports Centre (582204) 7.30am Sports Centre (582204) 8.00am Sports Centre (582204) 8.30am Sports Centre (582204) 9.00am Sports Centre (582204) 9.30am Sports Centre (582204) 10.00am Sports Centre (582204) 10.30am Sports Centre (582204) 11.00am Sports Centre (582204) 11.30am Sports Centre (582204) 12.00am Sports Centre (582204) 12.30am Sports Centre (582204) 1.00am Sports Centre (582204) 1.30am Sports Centre (582204) 2.00am Sports Centre (582204) 2.30am Sports Centre (582204) 3.00am Sports Centre (582204) 3.30am Sports Centre (582204) 4.00am Sports Centre (582204) 4.30am Sports Centre (582204) 5.00am Sports Centre (582204) 5.30am Sports

